

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Spring 2002 . Volume 72 . Number 2



# IOWA BIRD LIFE

## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: *Black-crowned Night-Heron at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, NE. Photograph courtesy of Don Poggensee.*

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# Meet an Iowa Birder — Richard Tetrault

*Robert I. Cecil*

*Richard “Dick” Tetrault, born in 1932 in Walhalla, North Dakota, really never thought of himself a resident of the United States until he headed south to attend North Dakota State University in Fargo. Walhalla, a historic town founded by French fur traders and local Indians in the extreme northeastern part of the state, was close to both Canada and Minnesota but was most heavily influenced by its northern neighbor. Dick’s early connection with Canada was understandable — not only was his family French-Canadian, his only radio stations were Canadian. And his family always went to Canada for shopping and vacations, in large part because the closest paved road leading anywhere in the United States was 95 miles away.*



*Richard Tetrault*

The Tetrault name shares in the Walhalla community’s history. Today, one can visit the old fur trading post which, along with the adjacent house, are North Dakota’s two oldest buildings. These restored historic landmarks sit on land deeded to the state of North Dakota many years ago by Dick’s father. Walhalla is also the headquarters for the Tetrault State Woods, one of four state forests in North Dakota, and also deeded by his father to the state.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in agronomy, Dick joined the Army and spent two years in Germany, winding up as a 1st Lieutenant in a combat infantry unit. Following his discharge, he returned to North Dakota State University at Fargo to earn a Master’s degree in Agricultural Economics. He then moved to Iowa City to accept a

position with Equitable of New York as an Area Investment Manager.

Dick describes his interest in birds and birding as lifelong. Indeed, he cannot remember a moment when that interest first began. For example, during his 28 years with Equitable, he traveled extensively in southeastern Iowa and western Illinois, and always carried binoculars and an increasingly worn Peterson's *Field Guide to the Eastern Birds*. Dick recalls his children poring over its pages and picking out their favorite birds every time they went for a ride. His daughter's favorite bird remains the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, even though she has yet to see one. Following a few trips to see particular birds, Dick's interest in birding became more formalized and more specialized. Having birded with Dick many times, I admire his keen but unpretentious intelligence, yet his almost childlike curiosity about not only birds, but also the entire natural world around him.

The pursuit of ornithology has taken Dick many places, and increasingly, birds came to be the focus of his travels rather than an incidental attraction. In the early 1980s, he began visiting such birding hotspots as peninsular Florida, southern Texas, and Southeast Arizona — places he has revisited many times. Since his retirement in the early 1990s, he has birded extensively in Alaska and the Arctic, including three trips to Attu, two trips to Gambel and Nome, one trip to Barrow (the northernmost point in the continental United States), one trip to Dutch Harbor, and one trip to St. Paul Island and the Pribilofs. More recently, he has added Mexico to his birding repertoire, where, over the course of three trips, he adds that he has learned the important skill of balancing the binoculars in one hand and a *cerveza* in the other! In addition to mainland birding, Dick also has taken a number of pelagic trips off the east and west coasts of the United States, allowing him to see unusual species such as Great Skua, South Polar Skua, and a Laysan Albatross feeding on the water only five feet from the boat.

Dick is a great storyteller, but his birding stories are the best. Some excerpts: On separate occasions in Attu, he was privileged to be among groups witnessing two North American firsts, Lesser White-fronted Goose and Red-tailed Robin. Also on Attu, he had the amazing experience of seeing all four species of eiders in a single binocular field-of-view: Common Eider, King Eider, Steller's Eider, and the rare Spectacled Eider. On St. Paul Island, he saw the Red-legged Kittiwake as well as a very noisy breeding colony of fur seals. And on Gambell, an island just off the Russian Coast, he will never

forget hiking in search of birds and stumbling into human bodies laid to rest on the rocky hillsides. Because of the permafrost, this was for many years the local burial practice. At that time, the permafrost even prevented the local Eskimos from digging sewage pits or installing running water. Back in Iowa, he enjoys relating the time he and Tom Kent were mistaken for members of a crime ring and nearly arrested while sitting outside someone's feeder trying to see an Evening Grosbeak. The feeder was visible from the curb, so they parked on the street, sat in the car, lit cigars, and looked into the yard with binoculars. After a while, the neighbors apparently became alarmed and called the police. Before they knew it, police cars sped in from either direction and boxed them in. After much insisting that they were innocent birders, they were let go.

While Dick enjoys relating his birding adventures, he notes that he has fond memories of birding's more routine moments, especially those spent in small talk with family and friends. "And since birds have minds of their own," he observes, "not showing up when you expect them to, birding provides me with many opportunities for conversation." For instance, on a trip to Delaware in search of a Whiskered Tern "who had mistakenly made a solo flight across the Atlantic," he sat with and enjoyed his conversations with birders from around the country for two days. "The tern, which was seen every day for two weeks prior to my arrival and every day for two weeks after my departure, never showed." Another time, he stood all day on the bank of the Rio Grande River waiting for the Muscovy Ducks to fly over. They never did. For Dick, however, these are never wasted moments — rather, he finds the company and conversations of such times to be the highlights of birding. "My hobby has introduced me not only to new birds and places, but, most importantly, to a world of new and interesting people. Over the years, I've introduced many family members and friends to the activity, and I trust they also find the joy of discovery and companionship that birding has brought me."

When Dick is not out birding, he has a variety of other hobbies and interests to keep him busy. He remains an active pilot, a skill he learned in Walhalla as a teenager. He is an active bridge player, fisherman, and, of course, enjoys spending time with his family. Since all of Dick's varied activities frequently overlap, birding finds its way back into his life again and again. He considers himself fortunate that it does. His wife Gerry, recently retired, spent a number of years as Head Nurse at the Dermatology Department of the University of Iowa and as a university outreach nurse.

Dick also has been active in Iowa birding. He has regularly attended IOU meetings, and has participated for a number of years on the Iowa City Christmas Bird Counts. In 2001, in recognition of his leadership skill and business acumen, he was elected to the IOU Board of Directors. But Dick brings much more than leadership and business skills to the IOU — he brings his personal warmth, generosity, easy friendship, and an abiding love for a great time. If you have not had the opportunity to enjoy his company, don't wait any longer.

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## **Phenology of a Killdeer Population in Northeastern Iowa**

*Tex A. Sordahl, Shannon L. McMartin, and  
Bethany M. Volz*

### **ABSTRACT**

We observed the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) population at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill from arrival to departure during 2000 and 2001. Birds arrived in Winneshiek County on 25 February 2000 and on 19 March 2001 (9 March is the 20-year average). Numbers at the landfill fluctuated from 2 to 15 until mid-April, remained stable at 5 to 12 until late June, increased to peaks of 123 in late August 2000 and 89 in early September 2001, then decreased until the last birds were seen on 29 September 2000 and 11 October 2001. The breeding population of about five pairs represents a density of 11.2 pairs/100 hectares. Our observations of six clutches and four broods enabled us to calculate the ranges of dates for breeding season events. The composite phenology for the two years of the study is as follows: (1) copulations observed 24 April–26 May, (2) clutch initiations 4 April–21 June, (3) hatching 2 May–19 July, and (4) fledging 1 June–18 August. The major events in the annual

cycle of the population began 10 to 22 days later in 2001 than in 2000, and this probably was related to annual differences in weather patterns. Of six clutches monitored, two hatched, three were depredated, and one was abandoned before completion. All five complete clutches had four eggs. No Killdeer chicks were known to have fledged at the landfill, where predator pressure probably was high.

## INTRODUCTION

The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is easily the most widespread and familiar North American plover (Jackson and Jackson 2000) (Figure 1). It is common throughout Iowa, nesting in open habitats everywhere (Jackson et al. 1996). A few birds arrive in Iowa in late February or early March, but most arrive in mid- to late March (Jackson et al. 1996). Migrants appear to move through rapidly but breeding birds begin nesting in mid-April and continue well into the summer (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). Although renesting has not been studied in Iowa, it is likely that failed breeders may make second or even third attempts; occasionally a pair may succeed in producing two broods in a season (Jackson and Jackson 2000). In fall, migrants appear to move through more slowly than in spring, and many birds may congregate near shallow water and grassy areas (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). A few birds linger in Iowa into December, and may even overwinter where there is open water (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). Thus, the general outline of phenology of the Killdeer's annual cycle in Iowa is well known. However, studies of specific populations through the entire year are lacking.

In northeastern Iowa, Koenig (1999) compiled information about the phenology of the Killdeer in Winneshiek County. The species has been found on 37% (16 of 43) of the Decorah Christmas Bird Counts and 96% (25 of 26) of Breeding Bird Surveys. The most reported is 130 on 1 September 2000 at Fort Atkinson (Kent 1998). Koenig (1999) found a nest with four newly hatched young near Castalia on 2 May 1964 and breeding was confirmed in Winneshiek County during the Breeding Bird Atlas project (Jackson et al. 1996). Further information about the Killdeer in this area is not available. We made



Figure 1. Adult Killdeer.  
Photograph by Shannon  
McMartin.





*Figure 2. Killdeer nest with typical 4-egg clutch. Photograph by Shannon McMartin.*



*Figure 3. Downy chick Killdeer. Photograph by Shannon McMartin.*

regular observations on a Killdeer population in Winneshiek County from arrival to departure during two years, and in this paper provide a thorough description of its phenology.

#### STUDY AREA AND METHODS

We observed the Killdeer population at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill (43°13'N, 91°40'W) one to three times per week from 9 March to 31 October 2000, and from 7 March to 8 November 2001. We totalled 52 hours in the field on 52 days in 2000 and 86 hours on 68 days in 2001. The landfill proper, where we conducted our study, occupies approximately 110 acres (44.5 hectares) on a windswept ridge and is surrounded by agricultural land. Plantings of prairie grasses and trees, along with a pond and a few depressions that hold runoff water, encourage wildlife to use the area.

During each visit to the landfill, we drove a vehicle around its perimeter, stopping periodically to survey the area with binoculars from vantage points. This took about 45 minutes, and enabled us to accurately census the Killdeer population. The location of each bird was plotted on a map of the study area. We conducted additional field work, such as searching for nests, after completing our counts.

We determined the dates of important events in the birds' annual cycle both by direct observation and by calculations. For nesting calculations, we assumed the following: (1) eggs are laid at 1-day intervals, (2) incubation begins with the laying of the last egg of a clutch (Figure 2), (3) the incubation period averages 25 days, (4) chicks leave the nest within 24 hours of hatching (Figure 3), and (5) chicks attain flight (i.e., fledge) at 30 days of age (Jackson and Jackson 2000).

## RESULTS

The first Killdeer arrival in Winneshiek County in 2000 was seen on the Luther College Campus on 25 February (McMartin 2000) and the first arrival in 2001 was seen at the landfill on 19 March (Arbogast 2001). The 20-year (1982–2001) average arrival date for Winneshiek County is 9 March (range = 21 February–30 March; Sordahl unpublished data). From our first observations at the landfill each year until about mid-April, the number of Killdeers counted ranged from 2 to 15 (Figure 4). Counts then remained rather stable at

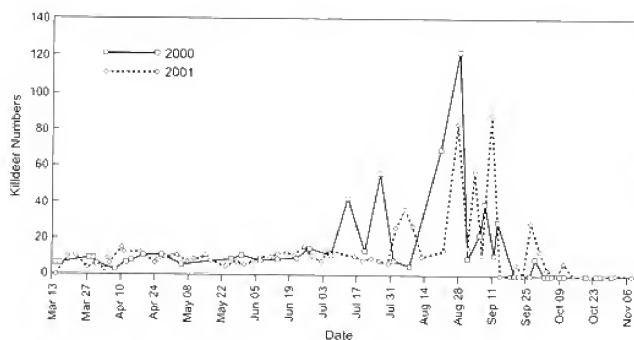


Figure 4. Number of Killdeers at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill during 2000 and 2001.

5 to 12 birds until late June. Subsequently, numbers fluctuated but showed a general increase toward peak counts of 123 on 29 August 2000 and 89 on 11 September 2001, after which numbers declined (Figure 4). Killdeers were last seen at the landfill on 29 September 2000 and 11 October 2001, although one was heard there on 1 November 2001 and a few birds probably were still present in the county. The distribution of our Killdeer sightings at the landfill (Figure 5) shows that the birds were seen most often along the gravel roads, in adjacent mowed grass, and near the pond at the east-central side of the landfill. Nests were located in short mowed grass or in rocky areas with little vegetation.

When Killdeers were first seen at the landfill each year, they already were associating in pairs. The number of observed pairs indicated a breeding population of about five pairs at the landfill in both years of our study, and hence, a density of 11.2 pairs/100

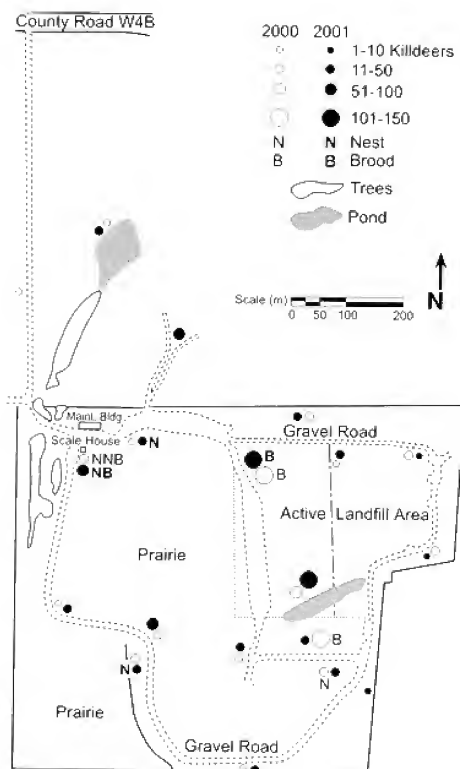


Figure 5. Map of the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill showing major features of the study site, nest locations, and the distribution of brood sightings and Killdeer counted, by year. A solid line encircles the landfill proper, which is surrounded by agricultural land.

hectares.

We observed one copulation on 26 May 2000 and six copulations from 24 April to 3 May 2001. Our observations of six clutches and four broods enabled us to calculate the following dates for clutch initiations, hatching, and fledging in this population. Clutch initiations occurred 4 April–21 June 2000 and 26 April–13 June 2001. The hatching dates for clutches were 2 May–19 July 2000 and 24 May–11 July 2001. We observed no fledged young at the landfill. However, the predicted fledging dates for the clutches and broods we did observe were 1 June–18 August 2000 and 23 June–10 August 2001.

All five complete clutches we found had four eggs; a sixth clutch was incomplete, with two eggs. Of the three clutches we observed in

2000, one hatched, one was depredated, and the third was abandoned before completion. Of the three clutches we observed in 2001, one hatched and two were depredated. Thus, two of six clutches (33%) hatched young. We found two additional broods at the landfill that hatched in nests we did not locate.

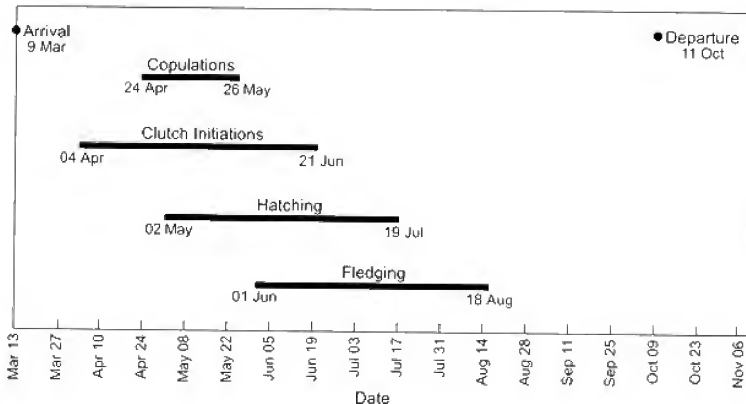


Figure 6. The composite phenology of arrival, breeding events, and departure of the Killdeer population at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill during 2000 and 2001. Dates for arrival, departure, and copulations are based on field observations only, whereas dates for clutch initiation, hatching, and fledging include calculated values (see text).

## DISCUSSION

When we first saw Killdeers at the landfill, they seemed paired. However, our observations were not intensive enough to determine whether pairing occurred before arrival or soon after. Jackson and Jackson (2000) generalized that pairs appear to form on the breeding grounds in northern parts of the species' range. The fluctuating but few birds counted from early March to mid-April suggests that small numbers of migrants passed through the study site during this period. The fluctuating and much larger number of birds seen from late June onward demonstrates the flocking tendency of postbreeding Killdeers. Overall, the composite phenology of arrival, breeding events, and departure of the population we studied (Figure 6) fits the pattern

for Iowa outlined in the introduction of this paper.

Comparison of the phenology of our study population for 2000 versus 2001 shows that most of the major events in the annual cycle (arrival, clutch initiation, hatching, departure) began approximately 22 days later in 2001 than in 2000. Despite the small size of our population/sample, we think there was a real difference between years and that it was related to differences in the length and severity of seasonal weather patterns. The 2000 season followed a warm winter (Cecil and Johnson 2000), and Killdeer arrived earlier than average that year. Weather fluctuated strongly during early fall 2000 (Fuller 2001), and Killdeer appeared to depart early. The ensuing winter was cold and harsh (Cecil 2001), spring weather came late (Kenne 2001), and Killdeer arrived later than average for the 2001 season. Fall 2001 was warm (Sordahl 2001), and Killdeer appeared to depart late. Our limited data, however, may exaggerate the difference between the years. An additional 2001 Winneshiek County Killdeer nest, located about 14 kilometers north of the landfill, was initiated 14 April, hatched 12 May, and would have fledged young on 11 June (Kraus and Kraus 2001). If we include this nest in our phenology, the gap between 2000 and 2001 nesting events would be decreased to 10 days.

The density of breeding pairs we found (11.2/100 hectares) falls within the range reported in the literature, and is similar to densities typically seen in cultivated habitats. Mace (1978) found that densities at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus and Minnesota State Fairgrounds were higher in very open habitats (average = 31.3 pairs/100 hectares in open fields, asphalt areas, and bare cultivated fields) than in planted fields (14.3 pairs/100 hectares). Basore et al. (1986) reported an average of 2.0 nests/100 hectares in five cropland habitats in Adair County, Iowa. Jackson and Jackson (2000) summarized studies indicating densities of 11 to 100 pairs/100 hectares in Ontario, 70.4 pairs/100 hectares at a dry meadow island site in Michigan, and 14.2 pairs/100 hectares in cultivated habitat in Illinois. Our site contained a mosaic of habitats. Some of these, such as areas with trees or tall prairie grasses, were not usable by Killdeer. If we excluded such unsuitable Killdeer habitat from our calculations, breeding densities at our site would seem higher.

Our data indicate that breeding success was low at the landfill. Only two of six monitored clutches hatched, and we have no evidence that any young fledged at our site. Basore et al. (1986) found 90%

nest success in southwestern Iowa, with no nests lost to predators. Our nest success rate of 33% falls well within the range of values for the Killdeer compiled by Jackson and Jackson (2000), who also noted that the vast majority of reproductive failures in this species are a result of predation. Predation is most likely the reason for low Killdeer success at our site. Although the landfill is a cleanly-managed operation, with a layer of soil deposited over the garbage each day so that it is not highly attractive to scavengers, numerous predators that potentially would take Killdeer eggs or chicks have been seen there. Mammalian predators include cats (*Felis catus*) and dogs (*Canis familiaris*) (Sordahl 2001), and also Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), and Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) (Arbogast 2001). Avian predators include Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), and American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) (Sordahl 2001).

On 7 June 2001, one of the authors (Sordahl) witnessed an attack on a Killdeer chick by a Red-tailed Hawk. As the hawk stooped, three adult Killdeers (presumably the chick's parents and a bird from a nearby territory) flew at high speed to an "escort" position alongside it while giving shrieking vocalizations. The hawk, which may have been distracted by this impressive demonstration, missed the chick and landed briefly. The adult Killdeers also landed and continued calling loudly in an extremely agitated manner. The hawk then flew off without pursuing the attack, probably because it suddenly became aware of the human observer only 20 meters away who had previously been shielded from its view by a building. Although that chick survived that attack, the observation illustrates the vulnerability to predators of birds that spend nearly two months in the egg and flightless chick stages.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Megan Johnson (Spring 2000), Kelly Place (Summer 2000), and Anna Rauk (Summer 2001) for significant contributions to the field work. Darwin Koenig provided his unpublished compilation of information on Killdeers in Winneshiek County, and Barbara and Kevin Kraus kindly shared information on the nest at their farm. Jim Dinsmore and Ross Silcock provided constructive comments on the manuscript. We are grateful to Clay Arbogast (landfill manager) and Margaret Jones (scale clerk) for permission to work at the landfill and for their interest in our study. Our work was supported by the Luther College Department of Biology, Sherman A. Hoslett Endowment Fund, and Dean's Office Research Assistantships Program.

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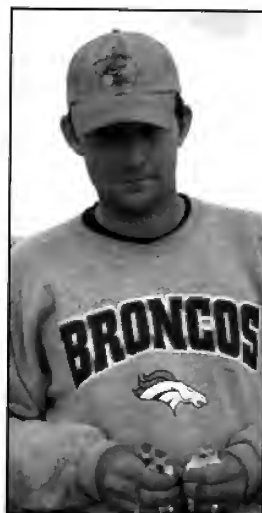
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# Iowa Christmas Bird Count — 2001–2002

Aaron Brees

*The 2001–2002 Iowa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) included reports from 44 locations (Table 1). This is up from last year's 41 counts and is the highest total since the 44 reports in 1996–97. New or returning counts included Worth County, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Union County, and Van Buren County. Westfield did not submit a report this year, and the count formerly known as Springbrook moved its circle and is now called Green Island. The species total for all counts was 133, slightly above the 10-year average of 131. The total number of birds was 759,369, up from last years 280,253 and well above the 10-year average of 473,000.*



Aaron Brees

After last year's blizzard conditions and below-freezing temperatures, this year's count period was much more hospitable. Temperatures stayed in the 40s and 50s until the last week of the count period when they finally fell into the teens. Only eight counts reported snow, which arrived with the cold temperatures at the end of the count period. With the warm weather, many counts had excellent species totals. High count this year was Keokuk (87), followed by Clinton (80), Saylorville (79), and Davenport (78). With a lot of open water, the Mississippi River produced seven counts of 70 species or higher. In the southern third of the state, Red Rock (71) led, followed closely by Rathbun (69). In the middle third, Saylorville was followed by Des Moines (70), Union County (70), and Iowa City (69). Leading the north were Spirit Lake (57) and Worth County (52). All of the Missouri River counts had above average totals, with the highest coming from Shenandoah (71). This year, counts aver-



aged 57 species with 13.6 people in 5.5 parties. This is a slight rebound from last season's weather-affected numbers.

## REGULAR SPECIES

Following the style of past CBC reports, totals are presented in Tables 2 and 3. Table 3 contains species reported from three or fewer counts, while all other species are recorded in Table 2. This year's numbers are often compared to the 10-year average and to previous high counts. I will repeat the usual caveat that effort has changed from year to year, and should be taken into account when interpreting the numbers.

With the warm weather and abundant open water, many water birds were found in higher than average numbers. A record high count of seven Common Loons was reported from four counts. Thirty Pied-billed Grebes were found, nearly double the 10-year average, and almost entirely on Missouri and Mississippi River counts. Not entirely unexpected this year were single Horned Grebes at Saylorville, Clinton, and Spirit Lake, and an Eared Grebe at Keokuk. An impressive 83 American White Pelicans were well above the 10-year average of five and the previous record of 18. Surprisingly, none were found on the two southern reservoir counts. Double-crested Cormorants (61) were found at nearly double the 10-year average. Eighty percent were found in the southern third and Mississippi River counts. Great Blue Herons also were found in high numbers. Eighty percent of the 153 herons were from the Mississippi River including a count of 44 from Burlington.

It was a very good year for most waterfowl, with many species being found in record numbers. With a 10-year average of 13, the 321 Greater White-fronted Geese were a bit unexpected and easily surpassed the previous high of 69. Also unusual was that 25% of them were found on Mississippi River counts. The 190,048 Snow Geese represent the highest count in a decade. Over 99% of them were found on two counts, Shenandoah and De Soto NWR. Nineteen Ross's Geese were reported. Although this is apparently the second highest count ever, the actual number present this year must have been in the hundreds if not thousands considering the number Snow Geese reported. As with the other geese, Canadas were found in excellent numbers. The count of 96,945 is three times the 10-year average.

Swans of both species had a banner season. The Trumpeter Swan total increased for the fifth straight year. Of the 37 birds reported, four were banded and 20 were unbanded. Reports of the other 13 did not include this detail. Tundra Swans were found on three Mississippi River counts. The total of 974, including 965 at Clinton, easily beat the previous high of 280.

Of all the dabbling ducks, only Wood Duck (27) and American Black Duck (79) were found in numbers below their 10-year averages. Several dabblers set new record highs including Gadwall (3,266), American Wigeon (399), Blue-winged Teal (8), Northern Shoveler (2,806), and Northern Pintail (5,360). Mallard (146,544) and Green-winged Teal (624) both had good years with second-highest-ever counts. This year, 75% of all diving ducks were found on the Mississippi River. Canvasbacks were found at slightly above the 10-year average with 8,346. Redheads (484) were found in record numbers, surpassing the previous high of 127. Ring-necked Ducks (5,834) were found at more than double the previous high, and far above the 10-year average of 561. Both scaup species were found in unprecedented numbers. Greater Scaup (259) easily beat the previous high of 41. Lesser Scaup (6,355) more than tripled the previous high of 1,904. Single Black Scoters were found at Keokuk and Union County and six White-winged Scoters were split evenly between Keokuk and Clinton. A single Long-tailed Duck was found at Davenport. Bufflehead (652) numbers passed the old record high of 555. Hooded (174) and Red-breasted Mergansers (49) were both found above the 10-year averages of 80 and 17, respectively. Common Mergansers (2,394) were well below the 10-year average of 9,758, presumably because they were still lingering on open water to the north of Iowa. Lastly, Ruddy Ducks set a new record of 3,767. Over 95% were found on the Mississippi River, with large flocks at Clinton and Keokuk.

This year Bald Eagles (1,543) were reported from every count. However, numbers were slightly below the 10-year average of 1,630. Northern Harriers (92) were just above the 10-year average of 75. Sharp-shinned (54) and Cooper's (50) Hawks were both slightly above the 10-year averages. Despite good numbers being reported all fall, only two Northern Goshawks were found on CBCs. Red-shouldered Hawks (4) were slightly below the average of six, while Red-tailed Hawks (1,500) were right at the average of 1,508. It was a poor year for Rough-legged Hawks with only 79 birds found. This is

down from last year's 221 and a 10-year average of 139. American Kestrels (624) were found in average numbers this year. The eight Merlins found this year were slightly above the average of six.

With the exception of Wild Turkey, all gallinaceous birds set record lows this year. The survivors of last years' harsh winter were very difficult to find due to the almost complete lack of snow cover. Ames was the only count to record Gray Partridge with a total of four. Ring-necked Pheasants, coming off last year's record high, set a record low with 327. The Decorah count found the only Ruffed Grouse, which was below the average of three. Although lower than the last two years, Wild Turkeys (1,306) were still above the average of 1,116. Only 12 Northern Bobwhites were found this year. This is down from 133 last year, and well below the 10-year average of 192.

American Coots (8,920) easily passed the previous record of 1,073. Although coots were widely distributed this year, 90% were concentrated in a few large flocks on the Mississippi River. Sandhill Cranes were found in record numbers this year. A group of 10 was located on the Green Island count, and two more were found on the Illinois portion of the Clinton count. With the warm weather and open water, shorebirds were found in good numbers. Killdeer (188) set a new record, passing the former high of 112. Common Snipe (52) numbers were actually down slightly from last year, but still well above the 10-year average of 34. Gull numbers were somewhat mixed this year. Ring-billed Gulls (29,732) were found above the 10-year average of 23,605. Herring Gulls (1,317), however, were well below the average of 3,799. Three Thayer's Gulls and one Glaucous Gull were also below average counts. Bonaparte's Gulls (5) were found on three counts, with singles at Spirit Lake and Yellow River Forest being unusually far north.

Rock Doves (8,389) bounced back from last years record low of 6,728. Mourning Doves (2,551) dipped below the 10-year average of 2,631 for the first time in several years. Eastern Screech-Owls (97), Great Horned Owls (203), and Barred Owls (103) were all found in average numbers. Long-eared Owl (17) numbers were well below the 10-year average of 27. Short-eared Owls tied the record low with only two birds being found. This is somewhat hard to explain, as they were fairly common all winter in some parts of the state. Northern Saw-whet Owls (5) were right at the 10-year average, including a good count of three at Amana. It was an invasion year for Snowy Owls with birds making it as far south as North Carolina, Oklahoma,

and Texas. However, the only Snowy Owl reported during the CBC period was a count week bird from the Ames circle. Belted Kingfishers (123) were found above the 10-year average of 100. Many were reported from the middle third (53) and Mississippi River (45) counts, while relatively few were found on Missouri River (4) counts.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (219) were found below the average of 289 for the forth straight year. Red-bellied (1,666) and Hairy (516) Woodpeckers were both above the 10-year averages while Downy (2,447) Woodpecker numbers were slightly low. Nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers improved on last years six, but was still below the average of 14. Northern Flickers (732) had an excellent year, exceeding the 10-year average of 567. This season's Pileated Woodpecker total of 66 is the highest in fifteen years. Only a single Loggerhead Shrike was reported this year. This is the fourth consecutive year that Loggerheads have been well below the average of 12. Northern Shrikes (19) were slightly below the average of 25. Most were found in the northern two-thirds of the state, but one made it as far south as Rathbun Reservoir.

Blue Jay (3,486) numbers dropped back below the 10-year average of 4,237 after being abundant last year. American Crow (54,060) numbers were well below average for the third year in a row. Horned Larks (820) were difficult to find with the lack of snow cover. They were far below the 10-year average of 3,639. Black-capped Chickadee (7,074) and Tufted Titmouse (896) numbers rebounded after being down last winter. White-breasted (2,459) and Red-breasted (311) Nuthatches were both found in above average numbers. Brown Creepers (314) were back in above average numbers after last years' poor showing. As expected, Carolina Wren (35) numbers were low after last year's harsh weather. Over three-fourths were found on Mississippi River counts. Winter Wrens (14) bounced back near the 10-year average of 17. For the third time in the last five years, a Marsh Wren was found; this one on the Saylorville count. Coming off a record low last year, Golden-crowned Kinglet (88) numbers were up but still well below the average of 122. An above average count of five Ruby-crowned Kinglets was reported.

A highlight of this count season was the presence of huge numbers of frugivorous birds. Cedar Waxwings (4,359) were found at nearly twice the 10-year average of 2,314. American Robins (7,648) had an incredible, record-breaking season. The 10-year average for this species is 1,191 and the previous high count had been

5,543. Saylorville accounted for 40% of the total with a count of 3,144. Eastern Bluebirds (560) also set a new record high, passing the previous total of 462. Only three Hermit Thrushes were found this year, slightly below the average of about four per year. Brown Thrashers were found at twice the average with six birds found on five counts. After last years encouraging, record-low European Starling count, this years record high of 62,545 was unexpected and a bit disappointing. Yellow-rumped Warblers (22) were slightly below the average of 26.

Sparrow numbers were mixed this year. Spotted (1) and Eastern (2) Towhees were both found at half the 10-year averages. Surprisingly, the Spotted was found in the east, at Muscatine. American Tree Sparrows (8,156) set a new record low. Song (635) and Swamp (101) Sparrows were also found in below average numbers. With the warm weather, two Savannah and one Field Sparrow were not unexpected. Lincoln's Sparrows (7) were found right at the average. One was unusually far north at Yellow River, while three were found at Keokuk. Fox Sparrows (28) were well above the 10-year average of 14. Sixty-five percent were found on Mississippi River counts and 35% were from the middle third. White-throated Sparrows (244) were above the average of 210. After two exceptionally good years, Harris's Sparrows (159) dropped back below the average of 214. White-crowned Sparrow numbers were also off this year with only 21 reported. Dark-eyed Juncos (12,550) came in well below the average of 17,216. Without snow to push them onto roads, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were extremely difficult to locate. Longspurs (248) were well below the average of 840. Snow Buntings (27) were even farther from the average of 701. After last years record count, Northern Cardinals (5,015) dropped below the 10-year average of 5,805.

This year was very good for most of the common icterids. Red-winged Blackbirds (8,517) were found in the largest numbers since the late-1980s. Rusty Blackbirds (120) were also well above the average of 82. Brown-headed Cowbirds (2,429) were well above the average of 741. An impressive 96% were found on Mississippi River counts including 1,507 (62% of total) at Princeton. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found on two Mississippi River counts, well above the average of one. Common Grackles (304) were off from the average of 440. Single Brewer's Blackbirds were found at Saylorville and Keokuk. Meadowlark (64) numbers were very low, presumably due to the lack of snow cover.

Winter finches had an unspectacular year. White-winged Crossbills were reported from two counts; 10 at Carroll County and 2 at Eldora-Union. Purple Finches (682) were widespread and above the average of 514. House Finches (1,871) on the other hand, were found at the lowest numbers since the 1991–1992 count. Pine Siskins (129) were well below the average of 499, while American Goldfinches (4,871) matched the 10-year average exactly. House Sparrows (25,220) declined for the third consecutive year, continuing a larger trend that started in the late 1980s. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (537) dropped from a record high of 723 last year, but remained well above the average of 261.

#### NOTABLE MISSES

As always, several somewhat expected species were missed during the count period. They included Golden Eagle (9 of last 10 years), Peregrine Falcon (6 of last 10 years), Northern Mockingbird (6 of last 10 years), Chipping Sparrow (5 of last 10 years), Great-tailed Grackle (6 of last 10 years), Red Crossbill (8 of last 10 years), and Common Redpoll (9 of last 10 years). Eurasian Collared-Dove (3 of last 5 years) was a surprising miss considering that new locations for this species are being found regularly. Several species that would have made this list in the recent past hardly seem expected anymore, most notably Black-legged Kittiwake and Evening Grosbeak.

#### UNCOMMON SPECIES

Several unexpected species were reported this year. Two new additions to the all-time Iowa CBC list were found: a Dunlin lingered long enough to make the Iowa City count and an Ovenbird was found on the Cedar Rapids count. Two second ever Iowa CBC records were also found: an immature Brant, from the eastern population (*hrota*), was found on the Cedar Falls-Waterloo count, and a Blue-headed Vireo was discovered on the Ames count. The American Pipit found on the Union County is only the sixth CBC report and the first since 1987–1988.

This year, most reports included excellent details or documentation for the required species. Only a few reports were not accepted. A report of 150 alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gulls from the Omaha count was clearly a misidentification. Also not included was a Horned Grebe, reported with no details, from Cedar Rapids. Although several Horned Grebes were found during the count period, so

was a similar species, Eared Grebe. Often details or documentation are required not because a species is unexpected, but because it can pose an identification problem. Examples would include swans, large falcons, shrikes, towhees, and Brewer's/Rusty Blackbirds.

Swans continue to be a problem when determining countability. With the exception of birds reported as pinioned or captive, I accepted all Trumpeters as wild. While this is certainly not correct, it seemed to be the best option considering the available information. In the future, Trumpeter Swan reports should not only include details to substantiate the identification, but also whether or not the bird was collared/tagged, and any available information on origin. Lastly, three Mute Swans were reported from the Ida County count. I did not include them due to questionable origin.

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**Table 1. Site Data for 2001–2002 Christmas Bird Counts**

Location	Date	Total		Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind	
		Species	Birds	Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L			H
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River For	20 Dec	75	9991	8	6	40	297	19	3	15	0	0	19	35	0	SW 0-5
2. Dubuque	29 Dec	45	3870	12	7	34	292	17	1	16	1	2	5	14	1	NW 10-20
3. Green Island	14 Dec	72	12996	14	6	46	390	8	9	90	0	0	24	42	0	SW 0-5
4. Clinton	20 Dec	80	44561	8	4	34	293	6	5	47	0	0	25	42	0	W 0-5
5. Princeton	19 Dec	65	9944	6	4	36	347	8	6	38	0	0	35	43	0	NW 10-30
6. Davenport	16 Dec	78	17216	19	8	65	450	21	8	62	7	8	44	52	0	SW 0-15
7. Andalusia	22 Dec	54	10702	7	3	25	331	1	5	58	0	0	38	45	0	SE 10-30
8. Muscatine	23 Dec	71	11939	9	4	35	424	12	5	33	6	6	24	27	0	SW 10-25
9. West Mercer Co.	18 Dec	66	28324	7	4	36	267	9	6	61	0	0	29	52	0	SW 0-5
10. Burlington	15 Dec	70	4825	10	4	34	204	26	1	8	5	18	37	45	0	S 12-15
11. Keokuk	17 Dec	87	44488	8	7	52	396	18	1	6	1	4	38	44	0	W 0-5
MISSOURI RIVER																
12. Sioux City	22 Dec	59	7781	13	7	27	315	11	2	1	4	12	18	37	2	NW 15-30
13. De Soto NWR	22 Dec	64	48027	19	5	42	295	9	2	3	1	2	15	43	4	N 15-35
14. Omaha, NE	15 Dec	64	11125	35	12	67	299	33	3	9	3	9	36	53	0	SE 5-15
15. Shenandoah	22 Dec	71	212469	15	4	34	263	14	3	18	11	16	26	50	0	NW 15-30
NORTHERN THIRD																
16. Decorah	22 Dec	39	2790	11	5	24	232	8	1	5	3	3	34	44	0	S 5-15
17. Bremer County	15 Dec	48	5040	7	3	22	274	8	1	7	0	0	34	47	0	SW 10-25
18. Mason City	15 Dec	49	15658	15	6	51	349	19	1	1	4	32	32	45	0	SE 10-20
19. Worth County	20 Dec	52	13445	5	3	27	189	23	0	0	0	0	18	42	0	W 10
20. Spirit Lake	15 Dec	57	12130	9	3	18	195	5	0	0	25	56	39	50	0	S 20-30
21. Cherokee	15 Dec	42	2990	2	2	16	240	1	2	15	1	3	40	53	0	SSE 10-35



MIDDLE THIRD																
22. Lost Nation	17 Dec	57	6062	13	5	46	411	8	2	28	0	0	35	42	0	WSW 5-10
23. North Linn	29 Dec	57	5093	10	4	34	363	6	3	32	1	4	5	15	2	NW 5-15
24. Cedar Rapids	15 Dec	61	14202	20	7	50	432	18	3	48	3	6	36	44	0	SE 20
25. Iowa City	16 Dec	69	18407	40	10	73	630	31	3	16	9	30	41	45	0	NW 0-5
26. Amara	29 Dec	41	620	10	2	14	60	6	3	8	0	0	8	12	tr	NW 5-10
27. Ced Falls-Water.	16 Dec	59	9377	8	5	28	217	8	0	0	0	0	30	42	0	W 5-15
28. Grinnell	29 Dec	24	2465	6	2	18	60	8	0	0	2	5	5	15	0	N 5-15
29. Marshalltown	18 Dec	33	4128	14	4	25	283	8	0	0	2	8	nr	30	0	S 5-10
30. Eldora-Union	19 Dec	33	1211	7	3	16	143	4	1	1	1	4	20	35	0	NW 10-20
31. Ames	15 Dec	57	16166	36	18	86	418	44	5	32	5	9	36	48	0	SE 15-20
32. Boone County	1 Jan	55	10670	49	20	121	647	67	7	69	5	46	11	18	1	NW 6-15
33. Saylorsville	16 Dec	79	16819	27	9	70	436	31	5	55	0	0	44	46	0	NW 1-10
34. Des Moines	22 Dec	70	23719	19	9	44	414	26	2	3	4	15	24	48	0	W 15-25
35. Neal Smith NWR	29 Dec	27	432	8	4	14	0	27	0	0	0	0	10	15	0	W 10-15
36. Jamaica	18 Dec	65	31035	8	4	35	443	9	2	22	0	0	27	43	0	SE 5-20
37. Union County	23 Dec	70	17406	2	2	19	319	5	1	3	0	0	17	24	0	W 15-25
38. Carroll County	29 Dec	35	6614	3	2	17	304	3	0	0	3	6	7	23	0	NW 10-15
39. Sac County	29 Dec	33	2399	8	4	32	120	7	0	0	5	8	7	12	1	NW 4-10
40. Ida County	29 Dec	50	6916	17	6	38	270	11	1	3	5	21	2	12	2	NW 5-10
SOUTHERN THIRD																
41. Jefferson Co.	15 Dec	40	1759	5	2	12	130	3	1	5	2	1	37	45	0	S 5-15
42. Rathbun	15 Dec	69	17458	27	8	59	748	14	3	25	8	25	35	50	0	NW 5-20
43. Red Rock Res.	15 Dec	71	14425	13	6	39	477	9	2	10	0	0	35	48	0	S 10-25
44. Van Buren Co.	29 Dec	47	2067	9	3	12	140	2	0	0	0	0	10	17	0	W 5-10
TOTAL													759761			

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2001–2002

Location	Co Lo	Pi Bi Gr	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Gr w-f Go	Sn Go	Ro Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest					1				881		2	22
2. Dubuque									123		1	
3. Green Island		4	2		4				2146	1	2	459
4. Clinton		8	18	2	13				3462	13	6	212
4. Princeton					6				90		2	105
6. Davenport		2		15	15	35	1		1205	1	2	5
7. Andalusia					3				365			
8. Muscatine		1			14	3	2		486		3	40
9. W. Mercer Co.		1	36		21	42			513		1	744
10. Burlington		4	18	7	44	1	140		459			8
11. Keokuk			2		11	1			162		1	97
Subtotal	0	20	76	24	132	82	143	0	9892	15	20	1692
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City							522	3	4001		1	38
13. De Soto NWR			1	6		20	33025	1	638			
14. Omaha, NE		5					11		786		1	8
15. Shenandoah		2			3		155515	9	299	7	1	52
Subtotal	0	7	1	6	3	20	189073	13	5724	7	3	98
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah									151			
17. Bremer County					1	2	1		1197			253
18. Mason City						5	16		6253	2		
19. Worth Co.			2			1	7		10114			
20. Spirit Lake		1	1			1		1	7706	7		78
21. Cherokee							1		889			3
Subtotal	0	1	3	0	1	9	25	1	26310	9	0	334
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation					2	100			585	4		
23. North Linn					1				932			
24. Cedar Rapids		2		1	1				912			2
25. Iowa City									1377		1	614
26. Amana									2			
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo					2	6	102		798		1	43
28. Grinnell									2100			
29. Marshalltown									2650			
30. Eldora-Union									415	1		14
31. Ames	1				1		2		667			
32. Boone County									321			
33. Saylorville Reservoir	4			3	2		1		514			39
34. Des Moines			1		1		1		2816		1	88
35. Neal Smith NWR												
36. Jamaica			2			100	700	4	25061			16
37. Union County				2			1	1	5380		1	66
38. Carroll County									4500			
39. Sac County									1000			
40. Ida County									2074	1		2
Subtotal	5	2	3	6	10	206	807	5	52104	6	4	884
SOUTHERN THIRD												
41. Jefferson County									366			
42. Rathbun Reservoir	1			6	10	4			922			72
43. Red Rock Reservoir	1			19	3				667			176
44. Van Buran				1					890			10
Subtotal	2	0	0	26	13	4	0	0	2915	0	0	258
TOTAL	7	30	83	62	159	321	190048	19	96945	37	27	3266

Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu
	15	2222 667	1	5	14 1	273	26	249	4	38	38
4	10	2715	1000	19	12	8		17		53	2
87	11	16595	234	250	25	1750	300	1375	200	5075	512
2		1590	3		1	2	1	25			
	4	1118	10		36			10		59	2
		73								5	
	2	650	8	457				13		28	
52	10	22120	6	11	55			400	1		
		92	3		12					11	
45	2	350	341	22	165	6180	34	770	4	262	21
190	54	48195	1606	764	321	8213	361	2859	209	5531	575
12		305	6	6	7	7	5	56		21	1
		10016					1				
		432				12	2	3		25	
26		45767	960	4500	63	1	26	2350	24	314	8
38	0	56520	966	4506	70	20	34	2409	24	360	9
5		10									
		1065		1				2		1	
	2	912						4		4	
	1	2005	10			1	1	4		5	
		39	79		3	102	69	305	25	305	54
		37	1							1	
5	3	4068	90	1	3	103	70	315	25	316	54
		63			1					1	
	1	146						1		1	
	1	555	1								
110	2	7220	17	58	90	2		185			2
		16									
1	3	1236			1		4	1		2	
		32		1							
		26									
		3									
		104									
		1									
40	2	1838	10	7	39	5	9	18		100	11
4	2	581	14	5	2	3	1	10		3	
2	4	2300	45	1	30			1		5	1
8	3	9380	42	13	50		5	18		15	
		52									
		50									
		105			6						
165	18	23708	129	85	219	10	19	234	0	127	14
		2									
		10492		3				15	1	1	
1	4	3400	15	1	6			1		20	
		159			5			1			
1	4	14053	15	4	11	0	0	17	1	21	0
399	79	146544	2806	5360	624	8346	484	5834	259	6355	652

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2001–2002

Location	Co Go	Ho Me	Re Br Me	Co Me	Ru Du	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	268	19	2	41	27	194	4		2		59	4
2. Dubuque	4					87	2				62	4
3. Green Island	6					189	4		3		73	5
4. Clinton	2050	23	4	13	1050	56	2	1	2		48	3
4. Princeton						83		2			30	2
6. Davenport	1		1	4		28					40	2
7. Andalusia						31	1	1			19	2
8. Muscatine	12			1		37		1	2		31	1
9. W. Mercer Co.		1				67				1	57	2
10. Burlington	14	2		1		58		2	1		22	5
11. Keokuk	101	2			2570	99	1	2	4		51	1
Subtotal	2456	47	7	60	3647	929	14	9	14	1	492	31
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City	423	3				3	1				22	1
13. De Soto NWR	94	6		2	2	40	3	5			28	2
14. Omaha, NE	264	21		17		30		2		1	77	1
15. Shenandoah	3			1	58	15	11	3		1	34	
Subtotal	784	30	0	20	60	88	15	10	0	2	161	4
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah		1				22	1		2		12	1
17. Bremer County						24		1	1		18	2
18. Mason City						2		1	2		23	
19. Worth Co.		2	1	2	6	9	2	2	1		20	
20. Spirit Lake	225	19		4	24	6	5				5	
21. Cherokee						2	1	1	1		12	
Subtotal	225	22	1	6	30	65	9	5	7	0	90	3
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation	1					41	6	3	1		79	3
23. North Linn						59	4	1	1		53	8
24. Cedar Rapids	15	17				52		3	2		62	
25. Iowa City		2				21	2		2		25	
26. Amana						17					14	1
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1			4		11		1	1	1	19	1
28. Grinnell						4			1			
29. Marshalltown						32			3		27	
30. Eldora-Union						13					12	1
31. Ames						7		1	5		63	
32. Boone County						23	1	2	4		89	9
33. Saylorville Reservoir	39	29	4	622	8	20	1	7	1		54	
34. Des Moines	6	14	1	25		46	2	2	3		27	1
35. Neal Smith NWR						1	2				8	1
36. Jamaica		4		1	8	6		1			29	
37. Union County	15	1	1	18	12	3	6	2			7	
38. Carroll County						6					6	2
39. Sac County						2		2			8	
40. Ida County						1	1	3	3		39	1
Subtotal	77	67	6	670	28	365	25	28	27	1	621	28
SOUTHERN THIRD												
41. Jefferson County						4	2	1			14	4
42. Rathbun Reservoir	25			8	1	25	17		1		49	1
43. Red Rock Reservoir	4	8	35	1614	1	61	1	1	1		47	1
44. Van Buren				16		6	9				26	1
Subtotal	29	8	35	1638	2	96	29	2	2	0	136	13
TOTAL	3571	174	49	2394	3767	1543	92	54	50	4	1500	79

Am Ke	Me	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Co	Ki	Co Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ro Do	Mo Do
5		1	68		789		3	510	3	240	48
13			84			1			3	190	32
17			1		1175		4	228		303	73
30		3	1		1305	7		2902	77	256	128
25		2	44			29	3	661	16	61	82
30			13		30	5	2	956	91	1254	272
16			1	1				61	6	72	63
27	1	2	14			23	5	161	26	684	190
16					3		1	139	5	81	46
30		3		1	12	2	6	260	7	244	65
29			66	8	4734	56	4	1532	28	798	102
238	1	11	292	10	8048	123	28	7410	262	4183	1101
1		2	21		2			1		41	4
4	1	12	182			1	1	58		70	55
14		1	101			2	2	798	5	144	28
16	1	14	6		144	1				69	7
35	2	29	310	0	146	4	3	857	5	324	94
2		2	79				1			105	
9		3								106	9
		3	5		1			350		252	15
2	1	1			1			99	2	107	1
1	1	5			582			827	35	11	1
2		6	8							38	
16	2	20	92	0	584	0	1	1276	37	619	26
66		16	128	1		1	1			150	28
12		14	55							114	14
33		7	29		2			2298	9	589	123
11		18	114		60	47	7	579	1	217	91
3		2	8	1		1				27	17
3		1	4							157	147
		1	1								11
10		6								98	29
3		11								35	
17		39	cw			1		2		347	121
16		26	69							176	35
14	1	22	20		35	1	5	3050	2	350	286
19		2	28		3	8		6879	696	163	326
		22									37
12		6	1		1		1			63	36
9	1	1	5		40	1		5		110	3
1		11	31							230	
2		7	3							175	12
2	1	42	29								5
233	3	254	525	2	141	60	14	12813	708	3001	1321
13		3	11							28	7
59		3	26			1	2	2272	3	102	
23		7	11		1		2	5100	300	131	2
7			39				2	4	2	1	
102	0	13	87	0	1	1	6	7376	305	262	9
624	8	327	1306	12	8920	188	52	29734	1317	8389	2551

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2001–2002

Location	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>												
1. Yellow River Forest	9	5	2		4	2	41	2	61	15	2	9
2. Dubuque		1			6		30		69	12	4	1
3. Green Island	14	13	5	1	6	8	88		87	23	15	8
4. Clinton	8	9	4		2	1	66		59	16	20	6
4. Princeton	3	3	2		1	5	17		33	7	10	
6. Davenport	1	9	15		9	11	69	1	136	32	12	6
7. Andalusia	6	3	2	1	3	5	12		28	3	2	1
8. Muscatine	3	12	2		2	3	63		107	27	17	2
9. W. Mercer Co.	5	22	10		3	21	57		51	17	17	7
10. Burlington	2	2	1		6	19	32		39	5	10	4
11. Keokuk			1		3	3	55	1	73	9	31	10
Subtotal	51	79	44	2	45	78	530	4	743	166	140	54
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>												
12. Sioux City		7	1				17	1	30	3	14	
13. De Soto NWR	1	1	1		1		12	1	35	4	45	
14. Omaha, NE	1		2		3	17	101		96	20	50	
15. Shenandoah		3	2	2		1	25		20	1	10	
Subtotal	2	11	6	2	4	18	155	2	181	28	119	0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>												
16. Decorah	1			1	6		17		24	6		2
17. Bremer County	2	1	2		2	4	8		17	3	2	
18. Mason City	2	6	1			1	23		51	18	9	
19. Worth Co.		1		1			6		28	7		1
20. Spirit Lake							15		55	16	3	
21. Cherokee	1	2			2		7		11	4	6	
Subtotal	6	10	3	2	10	5	76	0	186	54	20	3
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>												
22. Lost Nation	4	8	4		1	22	57		80	13	11	2
23. North Linn	1	12			3	3	45		93	12	17	2
24. Cedar Rapids	2	7	4		7	1	51	1	133	2	11	1
25. Iowa City	1	2	3		8	10	82	2	119	15	33	1
26. Amana		4	1		1	4	5		11	4	4	1
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1	1			3	1	20		41	9	3	
28. Grinnell						1	4		7	1	3	
29. Marshalltown		1				1	11		63	11	3	
30. Eldora-Union		5	1		2		12		11	1	5	
31. Ames	2	5	4		6		84		133	24	46	
32. Boone County	12	19	5		5	1	169		252	75	26	2
33. Saylorville Reservoir	7	18	10	7	7	1	113		112	11	85	
34. Des Moines	1	3	5		7		47		69	19	42	
35. Neal Smith NWR			2	1		1	5		21	3	1	
36. Jamaica	3	3	1	1	2	40	31		22	7	25	
37. Union County	1	1					14		2	2	14	
38. Carroll County		4					10		18	7	12	
39. Sac County		1			1		18		19	1	7	
40. Ida County	2	7					6		22	8	28	
Subtotal	37	101	41	9	53	86	784	3	1227	248	376	9
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>												
41. Jefferson County		1				8	13		8	2	3	
42. Rathbun Reservoir	1	1	6	1	10	18	69		46	5	27	
43. Red Rock Reservoir			3	1		1	32		48	11	40	
44. Van Buren					1	5	7		8	2	7	
Subtotal	1	2	9	2	11	32	121	0	110	20	77	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1666</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2447</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>66</b>

No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki
	94	261		170	16	5	54	8			6
	66	178	1	197	36	2	45	1			
1	266	254	13	197	48		150	7			3
	180	209	16	163	63	2	103	8	4		
	69	106	6	173	27	7	48	9	1		1
	181	876	3	502	47	7	126	31	13	7	4
	59	227	61	102	15		31	2			1
	96	396	27	191	40	4	72	5			1
	94	301	26	122	27	3	79	9		1	1
	75	372	8	96	29	6	17	9	3	1	
	167	12000	2	159	36	2	57	10	6	1	8
1	1347	15180	163	2072	384	38	782	99	27	10	25
	27	183	116	77		7	30	9			
1	17	214	159	95	8	3	17				5
	40	758		373	63	11	169	15	5		13
	88	210		58	5	7	26	4			2
1	172	1365	275	603	76	28	242	28	5	0	20
3	51	317		137	14	8	38	2			
5	55	183	12	74		3	22	2			
	73	5278		153		18	38	13			
1	27	102		51			22	1			
	23	126	2	187		14	288	4			7
	8	80		44		5	9	1			
9	237	6086	14	646	14	48	217	23	0	0	7
	226	388	66	311	24	21	63	7			
	103	191	133	247	35	1	51	6	1		1
	103	4254		372	62	20	99	19			4
	114	880	7	407	95	9	100	10	2		
1	21	30	2	28			12				
	49	4296		131		3	28	3			
	17	78		5		4					
	75	128		76	1	10	36	4			
	28	60		22	5		22	4			
1	71	10011	21	347	11	15	140	38		1	5
2	60	902		667	68	23	281	30		2	8
	75	293		482	23	9	108	12			
	36	8000	5	130	18	5	53	5		1	
	8	43		27			18				
	100	157		108	7	3	47	3			
	28	252	77	14		5	1	1			3
	21	331	24	27		13	16	2			
	22	92		39		1	28	1			
3	138	272	2	63		23	15	6			1
7	1295	30658	337	3503	349	165	1118	151	3	4	22
	56	70	24	22	2	3	9	1			
1	251	267	7	80	47	19	51	6			10
	64	273		141	16	10	33	4			1
	64	161		7	8		7	2			3
1	435	771	31	250	73	32	100	13	0	0	14
19	3486	54060	820	7074	896	311	2459	314	35	14	88

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2001–2002

Location	Ea Bl	Am Ro	Br Th	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	7	13		666	25		124	3	15	1	4	5
2. Dubuque	22	7		503	30		37		5			7
3. Green Island	36			1038	135		214	2	28		16	
4. Clinton	57	5		2052	8		139		26		8	2
4. Princeton	3	21		911	70		73	1	19		4	10
6. Davenport		29	1	2841	77		357	3	109		6	43
7. Andalusia	4			8399	14		60	1	11		2	4
8. Muscatine	8	56		3483	208		132		34		1	46
9. W. Mercer Co.	14	19		1907	13	3	193	1	36		7	7
10. Burlington	49	20		750	80		183		26		3	10
11. Keokuk	36	62		10517	74	3	96	6	46	3	17	15
Subtotal	236	232	1	33067	734	6	1608	17	355	4	68	149
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City	13	131	2	639	2		177					1
13. De Soto NWR	3	620		281	151	3	746		14			2
14. Omaha, NE	19	85		4078	295		71		8			2
15. Shenandoah	7	2	1	461			192		13	2	5	5
Subtotal	42	1038	3	5459	448	3	1186	0	35	2	5	10
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah				681	320		87		8			
17. Bremer County		2		1045			122		1			
18. Mason City	1	7		719	373		172					2
19. Worth Co.		1		133			292					
20. Spirit Lake				326			23					
21. Cherokee	11	728		526	202		6	1	2			
Subtotal	12	738	0	3430	895	0	702	1	11	0	0	2
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation		2		1335	79		168	2	6		1	7
23. North Linn	23	42		544	265		256		6			
24. Cedar Rapids	4	86		2125	30		152		10		7	10
25. Iowa City	15	64	1	2414	467		266	1	9		2	28
26. Amana				35			60		12			1
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		31		834	32		192		16			3
28. Grinnell				51	2		43					
29. Marshalltown	1	3		227			115					
30. Eldora-Union				104	13		23					
31. Ames	16	165	1	1695	184	1	207		8			4
32. Boone County	1	164		2841	22		661	2	26		1	5
33. Saylorville Reservoir	61	3144		2036	176		690	1	50		3	10
34. Des Moines	20	190		1500	10		199		27		8	
35. Neal Smith NWR		1		1			71		3			
36. Jamaica	3	130		959	31	3	41		4		3	
37. Union County	4	714		329	238	4	20	4	2			
38. Carroll County		53		636	61		134					
39. Sac County	11			296			42					
40. Ida County	6	464		399	252		926		13			
Subtotal	176	5253	2	18361	1862	8	4266	10	192	0	25	68
SOUTHERN THIRD												
41. Jefferson County	11	1		615	126	1	61					
42. Rathbun Reservoir	10	4		738	227	2	85		4		1	
43. Red Rock Reservoir	65	355		695	47		207		35	1	2	
44. Van Buren	8	27		180	18	2	41		3			
Subtotal	94	387	0	2228	420	5	394	0	42	1	3	15
TOTAL	560	7648	6	62545	4359	22	8156	28	635	7	101	244



Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	Na Ca	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi
	1	447 277 433 406 245 525 1 210 632 247 3 373 6 5 196			142 187 2 148 139 57 427 90 191 144 97 138	429 351 1 2880 3153 13 36 29 3 197		5 6 79 1 8	3 129 43 13 13 4 2	1 15 1 1507 100 274 315 30 1 70	9 20 93 26 2 34 5 7
6	10	3991	7	2	1760	7092	2	98	207	2314	196
12 4 4 20 40		233 550 415 295 1493	67 1 68		21 59 135 90 305	220 9 96 325	3 25 28			3	5 10 7 22
	2	122 74 121 33 89 5 82		2	81 40 32 9 10 18	114 2 5 3			1 12 1 8		10 13 8 7
7	0	521	54	2	180	124	0	8	22	0	38
	3	479 492 379 406 85 1 178 32 38 32 1 515 15 3 1119 3 614 6 457 1 95 9 190 149 17 69 3 73 13 484	30 1	1	227 264 245 464 35 83 12 54 13 136 313 280 115 17 50 55 15 33 64	2 100 150 3 12 7 1 500 6 2 2 2 13 2 3 40 136	2 2 21 2 2 4		1 3 3 1 7 9 30 1 2 2 4 4	1 1 6 7 1 1 2 59 23 6 7	4 63 12 16 7 1 2 109 54 2 2 6 7
105	8	5886	34	23	2475	932	31	14	64	15	365
	1	58 229 208 164			18 106 151 20	1 3 40	2 1			50 1 29	6 41 9 5
1	3	659	85	0	295	44	3	0	11	80	61
159	21	12550	248	27	5015	8517	64	120	304	2412	682

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2001–2002

Location	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>					
1. Yellow River Forest	42		153	1046	
2. Dubuque	51		106	686	
3. Green Island	45	1	188	484	
4. Clinton	33		83	1552	
4. Princeton	78	2	40	414	
6. Davenport	143	3	168	1830	
7. Andalusia	4		33	281	1
8. Muscatine	250		166	2296	39
9. W. Mercer Co.	22		77	266	3
10. Burlington	57	12	125	274	480
11. Keokuk	31		105	613	14
Subtotal	756	18	1244	9742	537
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>					
12. Sioux City	70	6	58	300	
13. De Soto NWR	17	1	16	119	
14. Omaha, NE	60	12	162	867	
15. Shenandoah	41	5	75	345	
Subtotal	188	24	311	1631	0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>					
16. Decorah	21		109	334	
17. Bremer County	4	7	47	485	
18. Mason City	38	1	80	535	
19. Worth Co.	1		11	292	
20. Spirit Lake	12		48	658	
21. Cherokee	24	1	681	143	
Subtotal	100	9	976	2447	0
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>					
22. Lost Nation	52		33	1070	
23. North Linn	71	16	129	998	
24. Cedar Rapids	118	7	98	914	
25. Iowa City	99	10	341	865	
26. Amana	7		22	100	
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	32		33	778	
28. Grinnell			47		
29. Marshalltown	21		24	325	
30. Eldora-Union	23		52	261	
31. Ames	55	19	159	588	
32. Boone County	87	4	311	1576	
33. Saylorville Reservoir	31	2	281	234	
34. Des Moines	44	1	128	775	
35. Neal Smith NWR			7	50	
36. Jamaica	28	2	36	525	
37. Union County	28		16	129	
38. Carroll County	28	5	63	173	
39. Sac County	11		83	338	
40. Ida County	36	4	128	528	
Subtotal	771	70	1991	10227	0
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>					
41. Jefferson County	3		13	120	
42. Rathbun Reservoir	46	2	140	693	
43. Red Rock Reservoir	5	4	171	295	
44. Van Buren	2	2	25	65	
Subtotal	56	8	349	1173	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4871</b>	<b>25220</b>	<b>537</b>

**Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts — 2001–2002**

Species	Counts
Horned Grebe	Clinton (1), Spirit lake (1), Saylorville (1)
Eared Grebe	Keokuk (1)
Tundra Swan	Yellow River Forest (8), Green Island (1), Clinton (965)
swan sp.	Princeton (2)
Brant	Cedar Falls-Waterloo (1)
Blue-winged Teal	Shenandoah (7), Union County (1)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (1), Union County (1)
White-winged Scoter	Clinton 93), Keokuk (3)
Long-tailed Duck	Davenport (1)
Northern Goshawk	Yellow River Forest 91), North Linn (1)
Gray Partridge	Ames (4)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (1)
Sandhill Crane	Green Island (10), Clinton (2)
Dunlin	Iowa City (1)
Bonaparte's Gull	Yellow River Forest (1), Keokuk (3), Spirit Lake (1)
Thayer's Gull	Davenport (1), Red Rock (2)
Glaucous Gull	Des Moines (1)
Short-eared Owl	Amana (1), De Soto NWR (1)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Lost Nation (1), Iowa City (1), Amana (3)
Marsh Wren	Saylorville (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Omaha (2), Davenport (3)
Hermit Thrush	West Mercer Co. (1), Boone Co. (1), Union Co. (1)
American Pipit	Union County (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Rathbun (1)
Blue-headed Vireo	Ames (1)
Ovenbird	Cedar Rapids (1)
Eastern Towhee	Des Moines (1), Davenport (1)
Spotted Towhee	Muscatine (1)
Field Sparrow	North Linn (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Davenport (2)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Green Island (1), Princeton (3)
Brewer's Blackbird	Saylorville (1), Keokuk (1)
White-winged Crossbill	Eldora-Union (2), Carroll County (12)

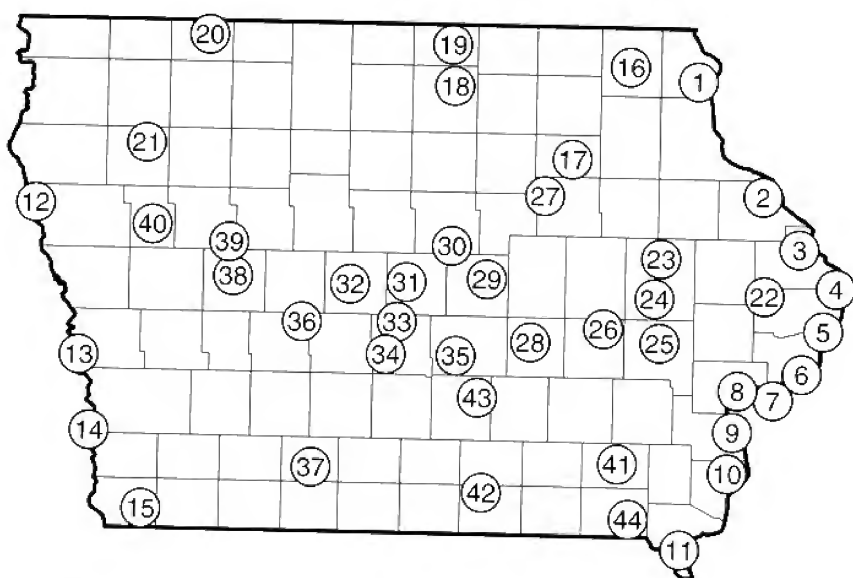


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 2001–2002.

# Field Reports — Winter 2001–2002

*Robert I. Cecil*



*R. I. Cecil*

## WEATHER

It was a remarkable season. Heavy coats remained in the closet, long johns in the drawer, and winter was measured in days rather than months. Specifically, winter weather occurred from 25 Dec to 5 Jan, 18 Jan, and for a few days in February — the rest of the season generally involved the metamorphosis of late fall into early spring. December had a balmy beginning, with temperatures averaging 13 degrees above normal for the first 22 days of the month. The season's first subzero temperatures occurred at a few northwest Iowa locations on 25 Dec, the latest arrival of subzero temperatures since 29 Dec 1939. Overall, December, with an average temperature of 30.6 degrees, was the 14th warmest in 129 years of Iowa record-keeping.

January followed December's lead and then some. While the month's low temperature reached only a relatively tepid 19 in Mason City on the 18th, the high temperature of 72 degrees on the 26th in Webster City was within one degree of the state's all time record high for the month. Overall, temperatures averaged 11.1 degrees above normal, producing the 6th warmest January in 130 years of reporting.

February was almost a statistical repeat of December. Its average temperature was 29.9 degrees (compared to December's 30.6 degrees) and it was the 18th warmest (compared to December's 14th warmest) in 130 years of reporting. February's high temperature reached 71 degrees on the 24th in Bloomfield, and its coldest day was only three days later, with a low of 14 in Spencer on the 27th.

In the aggregate for the three months of the winter season, temperatures averaged 29.9 degrees, or 6.6 degrees above normal, making this the fourth warmest winter in 130 years of reporting and

the warmest winter in 71 years. Regarding precipitation, the average over the period was 1.94 inches, or 1.11 inches less than normal, resulting in the 15th driest year on record and the state's driest winter in 13 years. The precipitation shortage in concert with the frequent warm spells meant little snow cover for much of the state.

### GENERAL TRENDS

As expected, the mild winter played a major role in the season's birding. Numerous species were enticed into lingering on the state's open water until the third week of December in northern Iowa and into the fourth week of December or later in southern and eastern Iowa. Significant among lingering water-associated species are Clark's Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron (although this species is beginning to be expected in winter), Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marsh Wren, and American Pipit. Several woodland species also stayed around for the mild December, most notably Blue-headed Vireo, Gray Catbird, Pine Warbler, and Ovenbird.

Mid-winter, with its combination of mild temperatures and low precipitation, resulted in some water remaining open around the state, but it also resulted in little snow cover. Consequently, there were a number of reports of late and wintering waterfowl. On the other hand, there were very few reports of those species that become conspicuous only when there is snow cover: Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and Gray Partridge, the latter being the most reported species last season but unreported this season. Among raptors, Merlin was up and Rough-legged Hawk was down — other species appeared in normal numbers. In contrast to the bitter-cold last season, it was a lackluster year for wintering sparrows, although a few such as Savannah and Fox were found in southern or eastern Iowa while Spotted and Eastern Towhees were not found. Among winter finches, only White-winged Crossbill made a good showing with about 16 reports of highly nomadic birds — last winter this species was unreported. Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin appeared in meager numbers, and Evening Grosbeak did not appear at all, following the pattern of the past three winters.

For a few eager waterfowl, spring in Iowa actually started in early February. Surprisingly, some of the earliest reports of returning birds were from northern Iowa on 5 to 10 February, when there were appearances by Greater White-fronted Goose, Wood Duck, American

Wigeon, Northern Pintail (central Iowa), Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck (central Iowa), Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser (central and southwestern Iowa). Ring-billed Gull also made it to central and northern Iowa during this period. There was a seven-day hiatus, and then waterfowl began pouring into the southern part of the state. Surprising, at least to me, is the fact that icterids did not begin returning in February, nor, for that matter, did any species other than waterfowl, gulls, and a very early Turkey Vulture. Enigmatic but probably wintering was a breeding plumage male Chipping Sparrow that appeared in extreme northeastern Iowa in mid-February.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Clark's Grebe, Brant, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Black-billed Magpie. Casual species were Iceland Gull and Bohemian Waxwing. Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Pine Warbler were very late and Turkey Vulture was very early.

#### SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

**Common Loon:** In northern Iowa, there were 2 on 2 Dec and 1 on 14 Dec at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (ETH, LAS), and 2 on 8 Dec at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). In central Iowa, one remained until 18 Dec at Hallett's Quarry near Ames in Story Co. (WO, HZ). Others include 1 imm. on 1 to 15 Dec at Robert's Creek L. in Appanoose Co. (AB-details, RLC) and 1 juv. on 21 Dec on Pool 19 on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (SJD).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The only report of more than one is of 38 on 8 Dec dwindling to 13 on 23 Dec at the Sedan Bottoms W.A. in Appanoose County (TNJ). Wintering was 1 at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (MCD, CE). A single bird on 7 Feb at Keokuk may have been wintering or returning (AB); 1 on 17 Feb at Big Creek S.P. was very early (BE).

**Horned Grebe:** There were seven reported, about average for a mild winter. The most were 2 on 3 Dec at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (JLF), and the last were 1 on 20 Dec at the Clinton CBC and 1 on 20 Dec at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. in northern Iowa (ETH).

**Eared Grebe:** The only report is of 1 on 17 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (\*AB).

**Western Grebe:** The only report is of 1 on 1 Dec at Silver L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

**Clark's Grebe:** The only report is of 1 on 2 Dec at Spirit Lake (\*LAS, ETH-details) [second latest].

**American White Pelican:** The most northerly were 2 on 6 Dec at East Okoboji in Dickinson Co. (ETH) and 1 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (RGo). The other reports are of 24 on 21 Dec at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (SJD) and 1 that "didn't look healthy" on 23

Dec at Waterworks P. in Des Moines (JGi). Returning migrants appeared by the dozen: 12 on 23 Feb in Warren Co. (DT), and the same or different birds on 23 Feb at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (JSi).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Among five reports, the most northerly by far is of 2 on 1 Dec at Spirit Lake (ETh). The most was 29 on 6 Dec at Roberts Creek L. in Marion Co. (AB) and the last was 1 on 5 Jan at Montrose on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (RLC, TNJ).

**Great Blue Heron:** Mid-winter reports include 2 on 13 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi) and 4 on 7 Feb at Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (AB). A returning bird was in Iowa City on 23 Feb (Bob Dick fide MCD).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 on 21 Dec at Heron Bend A. near Montrose in Lee Co. (SJD) and 1 on 8 to 10 Jan at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (JLF). After years of virtually no reports, this species has almost become expected during the winter season.

**Turkey Vulture:** Remarkably early was 1 on 13 Feb near Atlantic in Cass Co. in southwest Iowa (MAP).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The peak counts among about 10 Dec reports include 40 on 5 Dec near Mason City (CJF), 100 on 18 Dec on the Jamaica CBC in Guthrie Co. (RLC), 22 on 21 Dec at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 31 on 28 Dec in Wayne Co. (AB). There were two January reports: 1 on 12 Jan in Polk Co. (DT) and 17 on 11 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). A remarkable spring migration began with 1 on 9 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH), followed by 15 reports with peak counts of up to 689 on 27 Feb

at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (AB). Other high counts included 227 on 17 Feb at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (AB), 125 on 17 Feb at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 335 in 17 Feb in Mahaska Co. (AB), 410 on 22 Feb at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (MCD), 350 on 23 Feb at Dunbar Slough N.W.R. in Green Co. (JJD), and up to 600 on 24 Feb at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (CE, MCD).

**Snow Goose:** As expected, the large numbers came from western Iowa: 4,000 on 1 Dec at Blue L. in Monona Co. (BFH), 20,000 on 7 Dec at Snyder Bend, Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 1,000 on 31 Dec at Sioux City (GLV). The high number among 4 Jan reports was 12 on 30 Jan at Lewis and Clark L. in Monona Co. (RCE). Migrants began returning with 10 on 16 Feb at Blue L. in Monona Co. (TNJ), and on 18 Feb with 300 in Ringgold Co. (AB), 220 in Wayne Co. (AB), 2 at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (MPR), and 5 in Warren Co. (JGi). There were eight additional reports totaling about 3,000 birds, primarily from the center of the state.

**Ross's Goose:** There were about 3 December reports apart from CBCs: 4 on 1 Dec at Blue L. (BFH), 1 on 18 Dec at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 2 on 28 Dec at the Johnston gravel pits in Polk Co. (SJD). There were no January reports. Returning migrants were represented by 3 on 17 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 1 on 18 Feb in Wayne Co. (AB), 1 on 24 Feb at Jester P. in Polk Co. (BE), 1 on 25 Feb in Poweshiek Co. (MPR), and 1 on 27 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).



**Brant:** There was 1 imm. *hrota* race bird on 16 to 19 Dec at Beaver Valley Wetland north of Cedar Falls in Black Hawk Co. (\*FLM, \*MO).

**Canada Goose:** The peak count was 25,061 on 18 Dec at Bay's Branch A. on the Jamaica CBC (RLC). High December counts apart from CBCs include 5,000 on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 10,032 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe), and 14,700 on 28 Dec at the Johnston gravel pits in Polk Co. (SJD), the latter birds probably comprising some of the 8,000 in January at Maffit Res. and Big Creek S.P. (DT).

**Mute Swan:** The peak was 1 ad. and 1 imm. on 31 Dec at Cedar L. (MCD), up to 2 on 29 Dec to 13 Jan at Terra Pond (DT), and 3 on 15 Jan at the Saylorville Res. spillway (JGi-details). Others include 1 on 28 Dec at the Johnston gravel pits (SJD), and 1 on 21 Feb near Atlantic in Cass Co. (MAP).

**Trumpeter Swan:** High counts include up to 10 wintering at the Mason City Sewage treatment plant (RGo, CJF), 7 on 26 to 27 at West Okoboji in Dickinson Co. (SJD, LAS), 6 on 24 Dec near Boone in Story Co. (SJD), and 6 on 25 Dec in Cass Co. (MAP). There were about ten other reports of from one to five birds from throughout the season and around the state. Jay Gilliam reported that two of three birds in Warren Co. died from a power line collision.

**Tundra Swan:** A remarkable 965 were at the Clinton CBC on 20 Dec. Others include 23 on 2 Dec at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 7 on 8 Dec at Mud L. in Clay Co. (LAS), and 1 on 28 Dec at

the Johnson gravel pits (SJD-details).

**Wood Duck:** Wintering was 1 female at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines (RCe); possibly wintering were 4 on 8 Jan at L. Seguma in Van Buren Co. (AB). The most northerly December reports are of 1 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 2 on 27 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (SJD, JJD). Returning migrants were represented by 1 on 8 Feb near Iowa City (MCD) and 1 on 9 Feb at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**Gadwall:** The peak counts were 1,200 on 23 Dec at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. (TNJ) and 900 at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 21 Dec (MCD). Other high counts include 170 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB) and 235 on 21 Dec near Heron Bend A. in Lee Co. (SJD). Mid-winter reports include 1 on 1 Jan on the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, 1 on 19 Jan at Ames (WO), 2 on 22 Jan at East Okoboji, where there was open water all year (ETH), and 2 on 3 Feb at Pool 19 (CE). A single returning bird appeared on 10 Feb in Iowa City (MCD) and another on 12 Feb at Port Neal (BFH).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** There was 1 on 25 to 27 Feb at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (DaF-details, \*THK, \*MCD, \*AB, \*CE, \*MPPr)..

**American Wigeon:** There were 58 on 21 Dec and 20 on 23 Dec in Lee Co. (SJD, CE); in northwest Iowa, there was 1 on 21 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Returning was 1 on 9 Feb at Port Neal (BFH), 1 on 10 Feb at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (DT), and additional birds on 18 Feb. The peak count was 50 on 24 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**American Black Duck:** There were about 17 reports of one to three birds, except for 7 on 1 Jan at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). The reports were surprisingly well distributed throughout the season, with 8 from December, 9 from January, and 5 from February. All mid-winter reports were from the southern half of the state except for 2 on 3 Jan at the Lansing Power Plant in Allamakee Co. (DeC) and 2 on 2 Feb at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

**Mallard:** Huge numbers were reported: 14,200 on 6 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 5,920 on 21 to 27 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD, AB), 6,600 on 23 Dec at Green Valley L. in Union Co. (SJD), 13,000 on 1 Jan at Rathbun Res., (TNJ), 2,000 "wintering" in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 2,000 on 20 Feb at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (THK), and 2,500 on 25 Feb at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (Bob Kurt fide DeC).

**Blue-winged Teal:** There were 7 on 22 Dec on the Shenandoah CBC. Others were 4 crippled birds on 21 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD-details), and 1 "probably crippled" bird on 23 Dec at Green Valley L. in Union Co. (SJD-details).

**Northern Shoveler:** The peak counts were 151 on 12 Dec in Marion Co. (AB) and up to 337 on Pool 19 on 17 to 23 Dec (AB, CE). In the north, there were 10 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe) and 5 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH). There were two January reports: 1 on 1 Jan on the Cedar R. in Cedar Rapids (CE) and 35 on 21 Jan in Ottumwa (AB). The first returning birds were 10 on 24 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 1 on 25 Feb at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (CE).

**Northern Pintail:** By far the highest count was of 1,800 on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB). Reports after the CBC period include 1 on 10 Jan at Terra Pond in Polk Co. (JGi) and 1 wintering at Cedar L. (MCD). Possible early migrants include 12 on 3 Feb at Pool 19 (CE). Other early arrivals were 1 on 9 Feb at Big Creek S.P. (JJD) and 1 on 10 Feb near Iowa City (MCD). The highest spring counts were 650 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 300 on 25 Feb at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (Bob Kurt fide DeC).

**Green-winged Teal:** The high counts were 242 on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 161 on 17 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (AB), and 46 on 23 Dec at the Union Co. CBC. (AB). There were no January reports, but 2 on 9 Feb at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. were described as wintering (BFH). Early returning birds were 3 on 22 Feb at Coralville Res. (MCD), 6 on 24 Feb at Cone M. (CE), and 8 on 25 Feb at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK).

**Canvasback:** As expected, the large numbers were on Pool 19 on the Mississippi R., with a peak of 7,500 on 8 Jan (AB). Elsewhere, there were 7 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 1 on 22 Dec near Ames in Boone Co. (JJD), 2 on 22 Dec at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 20 on 26 Dec at West Okoboji in northern Iowa (SJD, JJD). Oddly, early returning migrants first appeared in northern Iowa: 1 on 5 Feb at East Okoboji (ETh), 1 on 9 Feb in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), and 1 on 13 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**Redhead:** The only mid-winter reports are of up to 20 on 3 to 6 Jan on Pool 19 (CE, MCD) and 6 on 2 Feb at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). Early migrants were represented by 1 on 8 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD) and 5 on 9 Feb in Dickinson Co. (ETh). No others appeared until 24 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** High counts included 379 on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 54 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and up to 1,000 by 6 Jan at Pool 19 (CE). Returning birds included 2 on 8 Feb near Iowa City (MCD) and 1 on 9 Feb at Big Creek S.P. (JJD).

**Greater Scaup:** December counts peaked at 47 on 14 Dec at East Okoboji (ETh-details, LAS), and 25 on 26 Dec at West Okoboji (JJD, SJD). Other December reports were of 1 or 2 birds: a pond in Appanoose Co (TNJ), Rathbun Res. (TNJ), and Maffitt L. near Des Moines (DT). January reports were all from Pool 19, with the maximum count of 15 on 6 Jan (MCD). Returning migrants included 1 on 9 Feb at East Okoboji (ETh) and 2 on 23 Feb in Marion Co. (JSi).

**Lesser Scaup:** Northern Iowa reports include 5 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe) and 16 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Unusual for mid-winter was 1 on 20 Jan at Ames (WO). Returning migrants included 1 on 9 Feb at Port Neal (BFH), 1 on 9 Feb at Big Creek L. (JJD), and 10 on 15 Feb near Iowa City (MCD).

**White-winged Scoter:** All reports were from the Mississippi R.: 3 on 17 to 23 Dec at Pool 19 (AB-details, CE) and 1 imm. there on 3 Jan (MCD-details), 3 on 20 Dec at the Clinton CBC, and 1 male on 17 Feb at Pool 13 (PVN).

**Black Scoter:** All: 1 female/imm. on 17 to 23 Dec on Pool 19 (AB-details, CE) and 1 female/imm. on 23 Dec on the Union Co. CBC (AB-details) [ties 2nd latest]..

**Long-tailed Duck:** All: 1 to 2 females/immatures on 1 to 19 Dec at Spirit L (ETh, LAS), 1 female on 23 Dec near Iowa City (MCD), and up to 7 from 23 Dec-8 Jan at Pool 19 (TNJ, m.ob).

**Bufflehead:** The only report following the CBC period is of 10 on 6 Jan at Pool 19 (CE). Returning migrants were 1 on 17 Feb near Iowa City (MCD) and 1 on 23 Feb at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

**Common Goldeneye:** Mid-winter reports include 80 on 3 Jan on the Mississippi R. in Allamakee Co. (DeC) and up to 8,500 on 5 to 8 Jan at Pool 19 (RLC, CE, AB). Returning migrants included 1 on 9 Feb at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 50 on 16 Feb on Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. (DeC), and 132 on 22 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** There was 1 male on 9 to 22 Feb at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (\*BFH, \*MO).

**Hooded Merganser:** The largest count by far was 102 on 1 Dec at Trickle Slough in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Other high counts include 21 on 22 Dec at the MidAmerica ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 17 on 23 Dec at Sedan Bottoms W.A. (TNJ), and 20 on 31 Jan at Cedar L (MCD, CE). In northern Iowa, there were 3 on 27 Dec at West Okoboji. (LAS). Returning was 1 on 9 Feb at MidAmerican Energy ponds (BKP/LJP) and 6 on 10 Feb at Johnston (DT).

**Common Merganser:** Dwarfing other counts was 6,549 on 27 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB). Mid-winter reports include 70 on 3 Jan at Allamakee Co. (DeC), 200 on 6 Jan at Pool 19 (CE), 1 on 11 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 1 on 16 Jan at Ames (WO), and 4 on 26 Jan-1 Feb at Coralville Res. (MCD). Returning birds were first noted in northeastern Iowa: 2 on 3 Feb at Decorah (DeC) and 120 on 16 Feb at Harper's Ferry (DeC). The peak February count was 2,132 on 22 Feb at Red Rock Res. (AB).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** There were 7 reports from December, the peak being 14 on 12 to 21 Dec at Robert's Creek L. (AB), the last was 1 on 27 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS, JJD, SJD). A single bird was on Pool 19 on 8 Jan (AB).

**Ruddy Duck:** There were 22 on 22 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 2 on 11 Jan at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). All other reports were from Pool 19: a peak of 2,560 on the Keokuk CBC, beating its previous state CBC record of 1,832 in 2000 (AB), 87 on 8 Jan (AB), and 4 on 7 Feb (AB).

**Bald Eagle:** There were the usual large counts along the major reservoirs and the Mississippi R. Pairs at nests were noted on 11 Jan in Jackson Co. (BEh), 17 Jan in Buchanan Co. (BEh), and 23 Jan in Monona Co. (BEh). A pair began incubating eggs on 12 Feb in Sac Co., the second earliest on record (BEh).

**Northern Harrier:** High counts were 5 on 14 Dec in Dickinson Co. (LAS) and 8 on 2 Feb in Wayne Co. (AB). There were 14 reports of about 17 other birds very evenly distributed throughout the state and throughout the season.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The most was 2 that wintered around feeders in Johnston (DT). There were nine other reports of single birds from throughout the season and the state, with 1 on 11 Feb in Garnavillo, Clayton Co. entangled in an old Christmas tree and released.(DAK-details).

**Cooper's Hawk:** With the two Sharp-shinned, two Cooper's also wintered around Denny Thompson's feeders. He didn't report many other feeder birds. The high count was 3 wintering birds in Appanoose Co. (RLC). There were about ten other reports from throughout the season and the state, with, as expected, several reports from feeders.

**Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 imm. on 18 Dec in Wayne Co. (AB-details), 1 on 16 Jan in Des Moines (BE), 1 ad. on 19 Jan at Hooper A., Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 ad. on 16 Feb at Horseshoe Bend A. in Dickinson Co. (LAS-details).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 on 13 Dec at George Wyth S.P. in Blackhawk Co. (JLF) and 1 ad. on 29 to 30 Jan near Calmar in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There were 2 Harlan's on 21 Dec in O'Brien Co. (ETH).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The high counts were 2 on 5 Jan in Steven's S.F. in Lucas Co. (JSi), 2 on 8 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), 6 on 19 Jan in O'Brien Co. (LAS), and 3 on 20 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC). There were about ten other reports. Several observers noted that the species was scarce this year.

**Golden Eagle:** All: 1 imm. on 9 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo-details), 1 imm. on 27 Dec in Union City Twp. in Allamakee Co. (MCD), 1 ad. and 3 imm. on 27 Dec in Hanover Twp. in Allamakee Co. (MCD), and 1 imm. on 15 Feb in Lucas Co. (AB-details).

**American Kestrel:** Several wintered in north-central and northeastern Iowa.

**Merlin:** There were about 16 reported from throughout the state and the season, about the same as last year but about twice the number of the previous two years. Of those identified to race, 4 were *richardsonii* and 2 *columbarius*.

**Peregrine Falcon:** All: 1 imm. on 2 Dec at Banner Pits A. in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Gyr Falcon:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Prairie Falcon:** An immature was found dead on 9 Dec in northern Clay Co. (Jeffery Knudtson fide LAS) and there was 1 imm. on 23 Feb in Clay Co. (LAS-details).

**Gray Partridge:** No reports. One of the most frequently reported species of the snowy 2000–2001 season, this species becomes inconspicuous when there is no snow cover, presumably explaining the absence of reports this season.

**Ruffed Grouse:** There were 2 on 19 Jan at Steven's S.F. in Lucas County where re-introduction efforts have occurred (JSi).

**Northern Bobwhite:** There were 3 reports of 1 to 13 birds in Appanoose and Wayne Counties in extreme south-central Iowa (TNJ, RLC). The most northerly report was of 1 on 22 Feb at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (MCD). Tom Johnson

noted that this species was way down in numbers.

**American Coot:** The large numbers were at Pool 19 on the Mississippi R.: 8,200 on 21 Dec, declining to 1,358 on 29 Dec (SJD). In northern Iowa there were 103 on 26 to 27 Dec at West Okoboji (SJD). Mid-winter reports include 1 wintering at East Okoboji where there was open water all season (ETh), 1 wintering at Cedar L. (MCD, CE, MPr), 1 on 19 Jan at Davenport (MCD), and 7 on 21 Jan at Ottumwa (AB). The 33 birds on 7 Feb at Keokuk (AB) may have been wintering, or perhaps early migrants. Early migrants arrived in east-central Iowa with 1 on 24 Feb at Cone M. (CE) and 1 on 25 Feb at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK).

**Sandhill Crane:** Significant was a report of 8 wintering west of Ellsworth in Hamilton Co. (Gene Hanson fide HZ). Other reports include 5 on 2 to 3 Dec at Bob Pyle M. in Story Co. (JJD, HZ), 10 on 14 Dec at the Green Island CBC, 9 on 24 Feb at the Banner Pits A. in Warren Co. (JSi), and 4 on 25 Feb at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (MPr).

**Killdeer:** Mudflats created by the draining of L. Macbride in Johnson Co. combined with the mild December weather resulted in a remarkable 89 on 20 Dec (JLF). A few lingered elsewhere during December, but there were no January reports. The first returning migrants were 2 on 3 Feb in Story Co. in central Iowa (HZ), 1 on 3 Feb at Pool 19 (CE), and 4 on 7 Feb in Lee Co. (AB). There were no more reports until 1 on 16 Feb at Terra Pond in Polk Co. (DT), 1 on 17 Feb

- at Kent P. in Johnson Co. (CE), and 1 on 18 Feb at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (JJD). The peak count was 36 on 22 Feb at Coralville Res. (MCD).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** There was 1 on 1 to 2 Dec at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA-details) [record latest].
- Least Sandpiper:** There were 2 on 6 Dec at Runnells W.A. in Marion Co. (\*AB) [record latest].
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** There was 1 on 2 Dec at Banner Pits A. in Warren Co. (JSi-details) [record latest].
- Dunlin:** There was 1 on 1 to 20 Dec at L. Macbride (JLF-details, THK) [record latest].
- Common Snipe:** The peak count was 33 on 20 Dec at L. Macbride (JLF). There were about 8 other reports of 1 to 7 birds through December, all, as expected, from the southern half of the state. The last report was of 2 on 1 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).
- American Woodcock:** Very early for northern Iowa was 1 on 23 Feb at near Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. (Lee Zieke fide DeC).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** All: 6 on 3 Dec and 1 on 6 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 1 imm. on 8 Dec at Diamond L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and 4 ad. on 21 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD).
- Ring-billed Gull:** The peak December count was 4,100 on 21 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD). There were several December reports from northern Iowa: 97 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe), 15 on 24 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETh), and 5 on 26-27 Dec at West Okoboji (SJD). There were no January reports. The earliest returning birds included 1,100 on 7 Feb at Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (AB), 1 on 9 Feb at East Okoboji (ETh), and 1 on 9 Feb at Big Creek L. (JJD).
- Herring Gull:** There were up to 527 by 21 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD, AB). Other reports include 2 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe), 12 on 23 Dec in Des Moines (JGi), and up to 11 on 24 to 27 Dec at West Okoboji (ETh, SJD, JJD).
- Thayer's Gull:** The first were 1 ad. on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB), 1 2nd winter on 8 to 14 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS), and up to 5 of various ages on 10 Dec-17 Feb at Red Rock Res. (AB, SJD). The others were from the Mississippi R: 1 ad. on 29 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD), and about 5 (1 ad., 3 1st winter, and 1 3rd winter) from 17 Jan through the period at Lock and Dam 14 and 15 in the Davenport area (SFr, MCD-details, JLF).
- Iceland Gull:** Reports of two birds will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** All: 1 ad. on 1 Jan at Lock and Dam 14 near Davenport (\*SFr), and 1 3rd winter and 1 ad. on 19 Jan at Davenport (MCD-details).
- Glaucous Gull:** All: 1 ad. on 21 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD), 1 juv. on 22 Dec at the Johnston gravel pits in Polk Co. (SJD), 1 on 17 Jan at Davenport (JLF), and 1 ad. on 17 Feb at Davenport (SFr-details).
- Eurasian Collared Dove:** At the usual Grinnell location in Poweshiek Co., there were 3 on 24 Jan and 2 on 7 Feb (MPr-details). Elsewhere, there was 1 on 21 Dec in Pulaski, Davis Co. (SJD-details), and 3 on 28 Jan and 2 on 19 Feb at Allerton in Wayne Co. (\*AB).

**Mourning Dove:** By far the largest count was 106 on 1 Dec in Polk Co. (BE). The most northerly mid-winter reports were of 3 on 2 Feb in Sioux City (GLV), and 1 on 11 Feb in Wright Co. (PHe).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Several were reported from around the state.

**Great Horned Owl:** Two Arctic race birds were found: 1 on 1 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe) and 1 on 18 Jan near Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPr-details).

**Snowy Owl:** All: 1 on 8 Dec at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (\*BFH), 3 on 14 to 20 Dec south of Lansing in Allamakee Co. (FL-photos, JLF, RIA/PHA), 1 on 19 Dec north of Ames (WO), 1 found dead in late Dec in Green Co. (Dan Towers fide JJD), 1 on 29 Jan near Paulina in O'Brien Co. (DK), 1 on 3 Feb southwest of Algona (Jeremy Shuver fide MCK), and 1 on 11 Feb in Wright Co. (DHe).

**Long-eared Owl:** The peak count was up to 10 through the season at Rathbun Res. (TNJ, RLC). Others include 1 on 20 Dec at Spirit Lake (ETh), 1 on 20 Dec in Worth Co. (PHe), up to 2 on 1 to 19 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, CJF, RGo), 1 on 5 and 23 Jan at two Kossuth Co. locations (PHe, MCK), 1 on 9 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 on 16 Feb in Johnson Co. (CE).

**Short-eared Owl:** The peak was up to 8 through the season south of Corydon in Wayne Co. (AB, JGi, TNJ, RLC). The others were singles: 1 to 8 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, PHe, RGo), 8 Jan at Steele Prairie in Cherokee Co. (DK), and 13 Jan at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** There was 1 on 16 Dec-1 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (CE, JLF) and 1 through the season at Hooper Game A. in Warren Co. (JSi, m.ob.)

**Belted Kingfisher:** The peak was 13 on 17 Feb along the Des Moines R. between Red Rock Res. and Mahaska Co. (AB). As expected, several wintered in northern Iowa where there was open water — not surprisingly, fish hatcheries were preferred.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** The peak count was 40 on Dec 18 on the Jamaica CBC (RLC). There were only 2 reports after the CBC period: 1 on 1 Jan in Marshall Co. (MPr) and 1 on 27 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). CBC and observer information indicate that this species is down in numbers, although Ray Cummins notes they are widely encountered in Appanoose Co. Perhaps more consistent reporting is warranted.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The only report after the CBC period was 1 on 27 Jan at the Hooper G.A. (JSi, TNJ).

**Northern Flicker:** Red-shafted forms were found on 1 Jan at an Ames feeder (JJD) and on 3 Jan at a Sioux City feeder (GLV).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A single bird on 4 Dec in a residential area of Iowa City was a little out of habitat (THK). There were four other reports, all from expected areas of eastern and southern Iowa.

**Northern Shrike:** There were about 10 reports, all from the northern two tiers of counties except for 1 during Dec and Jan in Story Co. (Mike Meetz fide HZ), 1 on 3 Feb at Big Creek S.P. (BE), 1 on 2 to 4 Feb in

Warren Co. (JGi-details), and 1 on 24 Feb in Cass Co. (RIA/PHA-details).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The most northerly was 1 on 20 Dec and 10 Jan in Poweshiek Co. (MPr-details). Birds elsewhere included 1 on 21 Dec in Monroe Co. (SJD), 1 on 9 Feb in Warren Co. (JGi-details), and 1 on 20 Feb in Wayne Co. (AB).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** There was 1 on 15 Dec at the Ames CBC (\*Kevin Healy). This is only a second late date, at least for Solitary Vireo, from which Blue-headed was split — the latest was on 20 Dec 1984 on the Lost Nation CBC.

**Black-billed Magpie:** A documentation of a bird from outside the expected range will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Horned Lark:** Of reports following the CBC period, 4 of 5 were from 2 Feb — the peak for the day and the season being 2,000 in O'Brien Co. (LAS).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Unusual for north-central Iowa was 1 on 23 Jan in Mason City (CJF, RGo). The other report was in northeastern Iowa: 1 on 15 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** The most was up to 8 on 27 to 29 Jan at Hooper G.A. (AB, MPr). There were about 22 other reports, almost all of 1 or 2 birds, of which half remained through the season, presumably at feeders. This was the best year in several years for this species.

**Brown Creeper:** There were numerous reports from around the state and throughout the season.

**Carolina Wren:** There were only 2 reports following the CBC period: 1 on 13 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi) and 1 on 26 Jan in Ames (D&JEd). This species definitely took a hit last winter.

**Winter Wren:** All: 1 on 16 Dec on the Burlington CBC (JLF), 1 on 6 and 27 Dec in Clive, Polk Co. (JCI), 1 on 13 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 on 17 to 22 Feb at the Pine Lake S.P. pillway (HZ, MPr).

**Marsh Wren:** All: 1 on 16 Dec on the Saylorville CBC (JSi-details).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reports from after the CBC period include 6 on 20 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 3 on 17 Feb at Kent P. in Johnson Co. (CE), and 2 on 18 Feb at Waterman Twp., O'Brien Co. (LAS).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Both reports were from CBCs: 2 on 15 Dec at Omaha (Iowa side) and 3 on 16 Dec at Davenport.

**Eastern Bluebird:** The high counts were 25 on 14 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 9 on 29 Dec in Warren Co. (JSi), and 40 on 7 Feb in Story Co. (Dean Biechler fide HZ). In northern Iowa, there were 3 on 1 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF), and several wintering in O'Brien County (DK).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** There was 1 on 8 Jan-16 Feb in Waterman Twp., O'Brien Co. (DK, \*TNJ, LAS, ETh). The same or another bird was found two miles from this location on 21 Feb (DK). The other report was of 2 on 11 Jan at Five Ridge Prairie in Plymouth Co. (\*BFH).



**Hermit Thrush:** Jim Sinclair coaxed out 4 on 9 Dec at Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. by using a Screech-Owl tape. Reports following the CBC period include 1 on 5 to 9 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (CE, MCD-details), and 1 still at Ahquabi S.P. on 26 Jan (JSi).

**American Robin:** The high counts were 78 wintering in O'Brien Co. (LAS, DK), 288 on 5 Jan at Big Creek S.P. (BE), 60 on 2 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi), and 100 on 7 Feb in Story Co. (Dean Biechler fide HZ).

**Gray Catbird:** There was 1 on 27 Dec in Clive, Polk Co. (JCI).

**Northern Mockingbird:** There was 1 on 17 Jan at the Louisa Generating Station, in Louisa Co. where one was found last winter (JLF).

**Brown Thrasher:** There was 1 on 22 Dec at New L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 on 8 Dec in Appanoose Co. that remained for the Rathbun CBC (RLC, TNJ).

**American Pipit:** There was 1 on 23 Dec at Green Valley S.P. in Union Co. (\*SJD). There are about 4 December records for this species and another from 1 January.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** All: 1 on 13 Dec at Hawkeye W. A. (\*JLF) and 1 on 2 Feb in Waterman Twp. in O'Brien Co. (\*LAS).

**Cedar Waxwing:** The top counts were up to 400 on 1 Jan in Cerro Co. (PHe, RGo) and 120 on 18 Feb in Decatur Co. (AB).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Unusual were two reports from northern Iowa: 1 on 9 Jan at the Shell Rock R. greenbelt in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF) and 2 on 15 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL). Others include 3 on 23

Dec at Green Valley L. on the Union Co. CBC (SJD), 1 on 23 Dec at Twelve Mile L. on the Union Co. CBC (SJD), 2 on 27 Jan at Big Creek S. P. (BE), and up to 15 from 27 Jan-9 Feb at Hooper A. (JSi, TNJ, RLC, AB, DT).

**Ovenbird:** There was 1 on 15 Dec at the Cedar Rapids CBC (\*Steve Van Note) [third latest].

**Pine Warbler:** There was 1 on 31 Jan Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (\*Linda Johnson) [second latest].

**Chipping Sparrow:** There was 1 in breeding plumage from 13 to 26 Feb in Garnavillo, Clayton Co., in northeastern Iowa. (\*DAK).

**Savannah Sparrow:** There was 1 on 1 Dec in Dickinson Co. (LAS) 2 on 2 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details). A first record for February is 6 at 4 locations on 2 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details).

**Fox Sparrow:** There were 2 reports after the CBC period: 2 on 14 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (JLF) and 1 on 7 Feb at Burlington (AB).

**Song Sparrow:** The latest and most northerly were 4 on 11 Jan at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Considered unusual was 1 on 26 Dec at Hale's Slough in Dickinson Co. (SJD). There were two other reports from the northern half of the state: 1 on 17 Jan at Otter Creek M. (MPR) and 2 on 9 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Remaining through the season were 3 in two Ames locations (D&JEd, JJD) and 1 in Mason City (CJF). High counts were 10 on 5 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (CE) and 5 on 9 Feb at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

- Harris's Sparrow:** The most eastern of reports was of 2 on 12 Dec-10 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (CE, JLF).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Reports following the CBC period include 1 on 3 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 5 on 15 Feb at Cone M. (MCD).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** There was 1 Oregon race bird on 17 Feb at Sioux City (\*GLV).
- Lapland Longspur:** High counts included 70 on 26 Dec in Harrison Co. (BKP/LJP), 120 on 3 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co (PHe), 100 on 6 Feb in Warren Co. (JGi-details), and 200 on 26 Feb in Hardin Co. (MPr).
- Snow Bunting:** The most was 50 on 1 Dec in O'Brien Co. (DK), 30 on 19 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), and 6 on 3 Feb in Polk Co. (DT).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** High counts include 100 on 4 Dec in Emmet Co. (DHe), 200 on 13 Dec and 80 on 5 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (JLF, CE), 140 on 27 Dec in Marion Co. (AB), 100 on 6 Feb in Woodbury Co (GLV), 130 on 8 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD), and 200 on 9 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** A bird on 23 Feb in Warren Co. was identified by song (JGi).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** A female on 9 Feb at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. is a third February record (BFH).
- Rusty Blackbird:** The high count was 900 on 12 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC). The second high count of 6 on 15 Feb at Cone M. (MCD) as well as 1 on 27 Feb in Mason City (CJF) were probably early migrants.
- Common Grackle:** The high counts by far were 750 on 10 Jan near Montour in Tama Co.(MPr) and 300 on 26 Jan at Hickory Hills P. in Tama Co. (MPr).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** All: 1 on 1 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), up to 18 on 11-26 Dec 1 mile south of the Highway 17 Des Moines R. bridge (RIA/PHA), 22 on 1 Jan in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and up to 2 from 27 Jan-10 Feb at a Polk Co. feedlot (BE). Over the preceding four years, there were two reports.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** The high count was 3,400 on 21 Dec in Marion Co. (AB). The high counts following the CBC period were 60 on 7 Jan in Tama Co. (MPr), and 300 on 27 Jan in Wayne Co. (JSi). In northern Iowa, there were 5 on 19 Jan in Emmet Co. (DeH).
- Purple Finch:** All: 9 on 27 Dec in Allamakee Co. (MCD), up to 60 through 1 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, RGo, CJF), 7 on 1 Jan in Marshall Co. (MPr), 15 on 11 Jan in Plymouth Co. (BFH), 6 on 15 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL), 22 on 20 Jan in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 3 on 25 Jan in Hardin Co. (MPr), 8 on 2 Feb in Marshall Co. (MPr), and 3 on 13 Feb in Marshall Co. (MPr).
- House Finch:** The peak was 29 on 18 Jan at Spirit Lake (ETH).
- Red Crossbill:** All: 1 or 2 on 3 Dec at Diamond Lake S.P. in Poweshiek Co. (MPr), 4 on 10 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), and 2 on 1 Jan in Brandon, Buchanan Co. (WLV).
- White-winged Crossbill:** There were 16 reports: the high counts were 12 on 29 Dec at the Carroll Co. CBC, 4 on 8 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 5 on 17-19 Jan at Elmwood Cemetery in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), 4 on 20 Jan at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines. (RCe), and 17 on 2 Feb at the Sheldon cemetery in O'Brien Co. (LAS). The only report from the

southern third of the state was 1 on 14 Dec in Mystic in Appanoose Co. (TNJ). Few birds seemed to remain in one location for more than a day or two.

**Common Redpoll:** All: 1 on 13 Dec in Mason City (CJF) and 5 on 20 Jan at Waterman Twp. (LAS).

**Pine Siskin:** There were 5 reports of 1 to 7 birds through the CBC period; afterwards, high counts among the 5 reports were 15 on 9 Jan at the Nevada Cemetery in Story Co. (MPr), 12 on 2 Feb at Sheldon in O'Brien Co. (LAS), and 10 on 2 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** There were two reports from usual haunts: 10 on 5 Jan in Lee Co. (RLC) and 3 on 24 Feb at Cone M. (MCD, CE).

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# Harold J. Giddings: Recorder of Iowa's Birds

*Thomas H. Kent*



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*Harold Joseph Giddings (13 August 1855–9 September 1943) made a significant contribution to Iowa bird records at the end of the nineteenth century (Figure 1). The family history is well delineated in articles in the Sabula Gazette (Anon. 1931, 1933c, 1941) and other family documents. At the age of 8, on 28 February 1863, he left England for New York with his parents and two younger brothers. (A sister was born later.) After spending a year in Canada, the family settled on 179 acres in Iowa Township in Jackson County, Iowa, just east of where H. J.'s uncle Alfred had settled in 1853 and about three miles northwest of Sabula. Harold J.'s father (also Harold) was a stonemason and a farmer.*

On 27 January 1882 at the age of 26, Giddings married Matilda Rachel Myers, and they lived in a house near his parents' home. H. J. worked as a stone mason from 1880 to 1885 when he and his brother John G. bought a 160-acre farm north of their parents' farm, which they divided in 1890. (The youngest brother later acquired the parents' farm.) The Giddings new home (still standing) was completed in 1891. It is just over the west bluff of the Mississippi River and overlooks a rolling valley (Figure 2). The Giddings had four children: Raymond H. (1882–1890), Ralph C. (1887–1962), Anna Jane (1891–1976), and Alvan James (1897–1986).

Knowledge of H. J. Giddings' birding activities, which span the years 1889 to 1899, is available from multiple sources: (1) "Bird Notes," a ledger book with his lists of early and late spring and fall migrants, notes on birds, records of specimens, and accidental deaths of birds; (2) specimens that he mounted (now at the Jackson County Historical Museum, two Clinton County conservation areas, and with relatives); (3) articles by Giddings; (4) articles about Giddings; (5) bird records published in the *Iowa Ornithologist*; (6) bird records published by Anderson (1907); and (7) bird records published in U.S. Biological Survey bulletins and *Bird-Lore*.

Giddings attended Jackson County schools after his arrival in Iowa in 1864, but there is no other information available about his education or how he became interested in birds. The first records in his log are the spring migration dates for 1889; however, a note attributed to Giddings under Snow Bunting (Savage 1894) indicates "the last flock I have seen was in the winter of 1876 and '77, during a severe snow storm," and Biological Survey migration records include a fall record of a Field Sparrow from 9 November 1888 (Cooke 1909).

Systematic reporting of Iowa birds began in 1882 and 1883 when Welles W. Cooke solicited data from Midwest observers, including two from Iowa in 1882 and four in 1883 (Cooke 1888). In 1883, the American Ornithologists' Union was formed and Cooke was encouraged to expand his collection of migration data to the Mississippi Valley. The results were published in a book covering the years 1884 and 1885 (27 and 15 Iowa observers, respectively) (Cooke 1888). Giddings was not listed as a contributor to this work, but his log is quite similar to that recommended by Cooke (1888, p. 45) and a copy of Cooke's work is the only significant bird book surviving in a remnant of his library. The column headings used by Cooke and by Giddings are as follows:



Figure 1. Harold J. Giddings ca.1900. This portrait was at the Sabula Masonic Lodge until recovered recently by Ralph Giddings, Jr.

Cooke 1888	Giddings 1889–1899
Name of bird	Name
When was it first seen, and how many were observed?	First
When was it next seen?	Next
When did it become common?	Com.
When was it last seen?	Last
Remarks	Remarks

In 1895, Giddings added a column for “How many” or “No.” after “First.” On 18 November 1892, he “mailed schedules on migration to Department of Agriculture.” This evidence suggests that he began keeping migration records in response to a request and they were published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The formation of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) in 1883 was a great stimulus to the expansion of ornithology as a science and as a hobby (Barrow 1998). At the first meeting, C. Hart

Merriam was appointed chair of the AOU Committee on Migration. To secure observers of bird migration, Merriam sent out circulars to 800 newspapers, and, to obtain federal assistance, he lobbied for the formation of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy (part of the USDA and later the Biological Survey) and became its first head on 1 July 1885. Merriam submitted Cooke’s 1884–1885 survey for publication by the USDA, but the data submitted by

Giddings beginning in 1889 was not published until much later.

Cooke began to make use of the data when he returned to the Biological Survey in 1901 after serving as professor of agriculture in Vermont and Colorado from 1886 to 1900. He published six bulletins



*Figure 2. North side of the Harold J. Giddings farm as it appeared in January 2002.*

and many articles on migration in *Bird-Lore* from 1903 to 1916. After Cooke's death in 1916, Harry C. Oberholser continued the series from 1917 to 1932. By 1910, the 25th year of the survey, 400,000 species records from 2,000 observers and 200,000 more from published articles had been entered on index cards (Cooke 1910). Giddings's 27 records of 19 species, which were selected for publication from the hundreds he submitted, comprised only a small fraction of the total, but indicate the contribution that an isolated Iowa farmer could have at that time.

Examination of Giddings's log on migration indicates that he was accomplished at identifying birds, but we do not know whether he learned on his own, what books he used, or when he first became interested in birds. He also learned taxidermy and was quite skillful in mounting birds. In 1889, the year he began to keep his log on migration, he was 34 years old, in the early years of having his own farm, and with two children. The eldest child died the next year and two more were born during his active birding years.

In 1894, the Iowa Ornithological Association was formed. Giddings was a charter member and active until its demise in 1898. He was on the Executive Council in 1895, the committee to compile a complete and annotated list of Iowa birds in 1896, and the Finance Committee in 1897. At the Second Congress of the IOA in 1896, his paper "The Warblers of Jackson Co." was read in absentia, and at the Third Congress in 1897 at Manchester, the program indicates that he spoke on "What can the members do to aid the Association." He was listed to give a paper, "The Ducks," at the First Congress in 1895, but there is no indication that he attended or that the paper was presented.

Giddings published six papers in the *Iowa Ornithologist*: "Red-headed Woodpecker in Jackson Co." (1895b); "Bird migration 1894-'95" (1895a); "*Urinator arcticus* in Jackson Co." (1896b); "The Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) in Jackson Co." (1896a); "Notes on



Figure 3. Harold J. Giddings as he appeared in later years in his living room with his mounted specimens.



the warblers of Jackson Co." (1897b); and "Effect of season on migration" (1897a). Other papers appeared in the *Oregon Naturalist* ("Winter stragglers to Iowa," 1895c); and the *Osprey* ("The Pine Siskin in Iowa," 1897c). He wrote notes on Northern Waterthrush and a Black Scoter specimen (1898), early bluebirds, wintering Purple Finches, and a second Pacific Loon (1899). He is listed as coauthor on three notices about the state list, which was never completed (Savage et al. 1896, 1897a, 1897b).

On 8 June 1896, Giddings noted in his logbook, "completed list of 'Iowa Birds.' I have reported on 217 species." Anderson (1907) noted, "H. J. Giddings lists 215 species from the most eastern station in the state (Sabula)." I compiled a list of 181 species attributable to Giddings from the following sources: specimens (100); migration lists 1889–1899 (127); other notes (36); published papers (84); and records contributed to the *Iowa Ornithologist* (45), Anderson (43), and the Biological Survey (19).

Giddings' bird specimens were kept in his home in cabinets. In 1933, Philip A. DuMont visited and made a list of all of the specimens (Anon. 1933a). DuMont was a leading ornithologist in Iowa at work on "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (DuMont 1933), so I consider his list to be quite authoritative. After Giddings died in 1943, most of the specimens were moved to his son Alvan's farm in Clinton County, but at least 18 went to his daughter Anne Laing. The fate of others is unknown. After Alvan's widow died, those specimens (except for a few kept by Wayne and Harold) were donated to the Jackson County Historical Museum in January 1998, and subsequently some were given to the Clinton County Conservation Board.

I examined and identified 103 specimens: 57 at the Jackson County Historical Museum, six at the Wapsi Valley Environmental Education Center, 16 at the Eden Valley Nature Center, and 24 with living relatives — grandsons Wayne Giddings (3), Harold Giddings (3), and John Laing (9) and great granddaughters Betty Gillen (8) and Marilyn Baldridge (1). The specimens located include 91 of 121 on DuMont's list plus 12 not on his list.

It is not known whether the unrecorded 36 species on Giddings's 1896 list of 217 species were based on memory or notes now lost. There are 41 species not recorded in my historical review that I would have expected Giddings to have seen, but some of his species may also have been species that are now considered subspecies or variants.

By comparison, Anderson (1907) listed 355 species for Iowa in 1907; however, 20 are now considered subspecies or variants, nine are rejected, and 24 are now accepted based on records after 1900.

Thus, Anderson's list could be pared down to 309 in comparison with Giddings list of 217 or less.

The most notorious of Giddings records was of a basic-plumaged male Pacific Loon shot on the Mississippi River by W. Eldridge on 15 November 1895 (Giddings 1896b) (Figure 4). He sent the specimen to C. Hart Merriam in Washington, D.C. for identification and mounted it after it was returned. Phillip A. DuMont examined the specimen on 15 April 1933 (DuMont 1933). The specimen surfaced again in 1998 when the family donated specimens to the Jackson County Historical Museum — it was photographed by Bob Sheets and reviewed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Records Committee.

Giddings received a second Pacific Loon, an immature male, taken at Sabula by J. Warneka on 26 November 1899 and sent to him for mounting (Giddings 1900). Another rare water bird sent for mounting was a male Black Scoter shot out of a small flock on the Mississippi River by Mr. Eldridge on 17 November 1895 (Giddings 1898). The first acceptably documented record of this species did not occur until 1952 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). Although there is no reason to doubt Giddings's identification, descriptive documentation that meets current standards was not in vogue at that time.

Giddings recorded the Passenger Pigeon in five years on his spring migration lists: 15 March 1889, 6 Apr 1890 (only two flocks seen), 23 March 1893 (one flock and two single birds seen this spring), 24 March 1894 (saw a small flock), and 18 April 1896 (small flock). The last verified Iowa record was from September 1896 (Dinsmore 1994). Of other declining game birds, Giddings does not mention Wild Turkey. Greater Prairie-Chicken was mentioned twice: two broods reported in 1894 by Henry Jess and one shot by Henry Dickinson on 10 March 1899.

Although Giddings lived near the Mississippi River, waterfowl, sandpipers, and other birds associated with water are greatly under represented in his log and reports. Although Giddings was an active contributor to the five-part series "Notes on the Birds of Iowa" in the



Figure 4. Pacific Loon (*Urinator arcticus*) shot on the Mississippi River by W. Eldridge on 15 November 1895 and mounted by Harold J. Giddings.

*Iowa Ornithologist*, that series was confined to passerines. Further, the notes that Giddings no doubt sent to Anderson were not quoted for many common species. Giddings's spring migration data averaged 55 species for the first five years and 83 for the second five. The numbers for fall were 49 and 62, respectively. He rarely mentioned resident birds.

Giddings makes no mention of books that he used or whether he had field glasses. He recorded first arrivals as if he were observing every day on his own farm. He apparently was quite familiar with passerines, even when he began recording migration dates in 1889. He may have recorded his observations on scratch paper before entering them into his report; otherwise, he would have had to record late dates from memory. An example of one such work sheet is contained in the logbook and many other pages were torn out. His trips to the Mississippi River at Sabula may have been infrequent, and he would not have had a telescope to survey the waterfowl. Yet, it is surprising that he did not mention such common birds as Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, or, even, Pileated Woodpecker. Only 11 of the 41 species that he might have seen but did not record were passerines. He reported Bank Swallow but not Northern Rough-winged Swallow — he may have failed to distinguish these two similar species. No mention is made of House Sparrow, which should have reached his area by the 1890s.

His interest in warblers was manifest by his paper on that subject (Giddings 1897b), and a display cabinet with 22 nicely mounted species is preserved. He often made notes about arriving birds, e.g., he gave the hour of arrival of Purple Martins. He found Horned Larks ready to fledge on 9 April 1889.

Rare passerines included Violet-green Swallow (probably an identification error), Bewick's Wren (6–8 April 1890), Bohemian Waxwing (24 February 1890), Black-throated Blue Warbler ("a few times"), Pine Warbler (17 April 1896, shot a male; 23, 24 April 1897), Hooded Warbler (1 June 1897), Pine Grosbeak (in Anderson 1907: "Dec. 1, 1903, two males were shot near the mouth of the Maquoketa River and sent to me — my only record"), Common Redpoll (5–6 March 1897, female and male, mounted), and Evening Grosbeak (November 1889, January 1891, January 1896). If the existing specimen of Pine Warbler is the bird that was shot on 17 April 1896, it would substantiate a tie for the earliest spring date for that species. In his logbook, he lists Pine Grosbeak for 5 April 1889, but he did not recall this record later and the date would be later than this species has ever been recorded in Iowa.

Based on the 2001 list of early and late dates for Iowa, Giddings's records exceed these dates as follows: Eastern Phoebe — 15 March 1889 (ties 2nd earliest); Northern Shrike — 3 April 1891 (3rd latest); Purple Martin — 22 March 1897 (3rd earliest); Chestnut-sided Warbler — 1 May 1891, 2 May 1896 (ties earliest, 2nd earliest); American Redstart — 29 April 1896 (ties 2nd earliest); American Tree Sparrow — 8 October 1892 (2nd earliest); Clay-colored Sparrow — 11 April 1896, 14 April 1893 (2nd and 3rd earliest); Lark Sparrow — 17 April 1898 (3rd earliest); Fox Sparrow — 29 April 1892, 5 May 1893 (3rd and 2nd latest); and Rusty Blackbird — 24 September 1894 (ties earliest). Giddings's migration data logs suggest that he was looking for birds on his farm every day, so it is not surprising that he contributed significant information to the knowledge of bird migration in Iowa.

In 1898, the Spanish-American War began and the Iowa Ornithologist Association ended in mid-year. Giddings made no migration notes for the fall of that year and only a few for the spring of 1899. He did send a note to the *Western Ornithologist*, the brief successor to the *Iowa Ornithologist* for 1900, and provided data to Anderson for his book that was published in 1907. Giddings did not join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union when it was formed in 1923 and when he would have been 68 years old. In 1900 and 1906, he was "Master" at the Masonic Lodge in Sabula. He also had a great interest in the trees and flowers that he planted (Anon. 1933a). His grandchildren recall being shown the bird specimens in the 1930s. By that time he was quite deaf, and they recall being told that his hearing loss occurred quite suddenly.

Giddings's burst of ornithological activity and later interest in botany overlap those of fellow farmer David L. Savage (Kent 2000), although Giddings was older when his birding interests became manifest. Both of these individuals fit into the national interest in ornithology that developed rapidly after the formation of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883, and at a time when young Iowans began to have more free time and were better educated. The Iowa Ornithological Association, the Biological Survey, and Iowa's first comprehensive book on birds by Rudolph M. Anderson provided an outlet for the bird findings of Giddings and others. The uncovering of the Giddings's notes and specimens came as a surprise to me, and the contribution of a farmer who birded only one spot in the state was more pervasive than I would have expected.

Photographs of the Pacific Loon sent to the Records Committee by Bob Sheets of the Department of Natural Resources gave me the

first clue of the existence of Giddings' materials. A visit to the Jackson County Historical Museum in October 2001 introduced me to curator Toni Kracke and her boundless enthusiasm and access to the Giddings specimens and papers. Grandson Wayne Giddings of Iowa City led me on a tour of the Giddings properties and visits to other grandchildren Harold B. Giddings, Ione Dannatt, Jane Jepsen, Ralph Giddings, Jr., and John Laing, granddaughters Betty Gillen and Marilyn Baldrige, and Viola Giddings (representing the Alfred Giddings family). These descendants provided additional information and allowed me to copy family photographs and examine specimens. Mark Roberts provided access and information regarding the specimens at Clinton County sites.

The family has donated H. J. Giddings's original log "Bird Notes" to the State Historical Society of Iowa, and I have donated transcripts of the log and articles; copies of articles, family documents, and photographs; and my analytical tables of bird records to the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Jackson County Historical Museum.

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## Birding the Burlington Area

Charles R. Fuller

*Birding in the Burlington area is as diverse, if not more so, than anywhere in Iowa. This southeastern corner of the state features the Mississippi River and associated bottomland, forested hillsides and gullies, superb suburban areas, a unique preserve, intensively*

*farmed land, and a beautiful state park. This bird tour will include all of Des Moines County, northern Lee County, southern Louisa County, and a small portion of Henry County (Geode State Park).*

#### DES MOINES AND EASTERN HENRY COUNTIES

In **Burlington**, which is the seat of Des Moines County, there are a number of birding areas that I call superb suburban sites. **Crapo Park** is the first (Figure 1, 1). The entire park is good birding at any season, as it is an arboretum with a wide variety of trees, including many conifers. During migration, anywhere in the park is good for migrants, especially warblers. The best location, however, is the sewer walk in **Dankwardt Memorial Park** (Figure 1, 2), which adjoins Crapo Park. San Antonio has its river walk, and Burlington has its sewer walk!

To find this area, exit Highway 34 at Main Street, which you follow south 2.1 miles from the downtown area. Immediately after crossing Cascade Bridge turn right into **Dankwardt Memorial Park** (Figure 1, 2). Proceed 0.5 miles on a winding road, and turn right on a lane marked "Shoquoquon Tennis Club." Park in the tennis club lot and just 20 yards to the left is a path to the sewer, where you can walk both directions along the sewer. In the winter, Carolina Wrens can be heard singing, and this is the most reliable spot for Winter Wren. Look for it along the open creek all the way to the railroad tracks. Other winter birds include Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Pileated Woodpecker (all year), Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. In past years Hermit Thrush and Eastern Phoebe have wintered here. In migration, this is an excellent place to see warblers, and particularly the "low" ones like Mourning, Canada, and Ovenbird. The area is also rich in nesting summer residents.

Adjacent to Crapo Park is **Sacred Heart Cemetery**, which in the winter is a good place to find winter finches, Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Long-eared Owl.

The second superb suburban area is **Aspen Grove Cemetery** (Figure 1, 3). To find this area, leave Highway 61 at Sunnyside Avenue, and proceed east for 1.8 miles until you reach a stoplight. Turn right and continue to the Corse Street entrance, where you are in the "old" section. In winter, search the numerous hemlock trees scattered about for Crossbills of both species. Pine Siskins are here, and with persistent searching, usually a Saw-whet Owl can be found.

Northern Goshawk has roosted here several winters. This is also an excellent area during migration.

After birding Aspen Grove Cemetery, it is easy to reach **Starr's Cave Preserve** (Figure 1, 4). Retrace your steps along Corse Street and Sunnyside Avenue, and it is 1.3 miles to Irish Ridge Road, where a brown sign points the way north. Follow Irish Ridge Road to the preserve. Along the entrance road is the best spot for migrants and wintering sparrows. It is the most reliable location for Canada, Mourning, and Connecticut Warblers. During the nesting season, if you have not seen a Yellow-throated Warbler here, continue on to the Nature Center. Along the river trail at the Nature Center, you should also find Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and possibly Cerulean Warbler. A Western Tanager visited here one recent year. The usual fare of summer residents abounds.

Eurasian Tree Sparrows were first discovered nesting in the state in an area north of Burlington. If you proceed north of town on Highway 99, shortly after you cross Flint Creek, turn east on **Tama Road** (Figure 1, 5). For the next six miles check feeders, brush piles, and human dwelling areas, where there are at least as many Eurasian Tree Sparrows as House Sparrows. Now that you have seen this bird, retrace your route to Highway 99. The **waterworks plant** (Figure 1, 6) just north of the Tama Road turn-off, if the river level is high in the spring, is an excellent spot for shorebirds. A Snowy Plover showed up here one spring.

**Casey-Barrow Access** (Figure 1, 7) on the Mississippi River can be found by continuing north on Highway 99 to just past mile marker 9, where you turn east and follow the brown conservation signs. Along the way, in the winter, there is a good chance of seeing Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings, which prefer these bottom-land fields. Smith's Longspurs have been present here in some springs. Another spring highlight was the sighting of a Lark Bunting. At the access, the area is best birded from the parking lot by scoping the island and sandbars. Many interesting birds are found here, particularly in the summer and fall. Look for gulls, terns, herons and egrets, and shorebirds. Black-bellied Plover, Avocet, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Marbled Godwit, Piping Plover, both species of night herons, Snowy Plover, Little Blue Heron, Laughing Gull, and Common and Least Terns, have all been seen here.

Heading south from Burlington, you will need to find Summer Street Road. From the junction of Highways 34 and 61, go south 1.5 miles to the last stoplight in town at Mason Road. Follow Mason



Road east to the first stoplight, where you take Summer Street south until you reach Sullivan Slough Road. This road will take you to the **Mississippi River bottom lands** (Figure 1, 8). The most obvious landmark is the Alliant Energy generating plant. Check the settling ponds there, before you drive down the cinder road. This road floods almost yearly, and May and June is the best time to find Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, which nests in the area. If you have not seen Pileated Woodpecker yet, park along the road in the dense timbered area, and eventually one will call or fly by. If the woods are flooded, Prothonotary Warblers should be visible. The boat ramp at the end of the public road is a good spot to view the Mississippi, and in the winter look for Bald Eagles, gulls, and waterfowl.

Another river viewing area is **Lock & Dam No. 18** (Figure 1, 9). Reaching this area involves crossing the Great River Bridge into Illinois and driving approximately five miles east on Highway 34. From there, turn north following the asphalt road to the Lock & Dam. For the list purists, virtually all that you observe on the Mississippi River will be in Iowa, because the river channel goes through the locks just in front of your eyes. In the spring and particularly in the fall until ice-up, ducks, loons, grebes, and gulls are the highlights. Most years, one, if not all, species of scoters will be found. A Red-throated Loon and Western Grebe were there in 1999, and a Brown Pelican was found recently. However, as of this writing, the dam area has been closed to the public, as a result of September 11. It may reopen sometime in 2002.

**Geode State Park** (Figure 1, 10) is the only state park in the immediate area. The majority of the park is found in **Henry County**. It features a clear lake, with hilly, heavily forested ravines. Most of the forest is deciduous, but there are areas where cedars abound. During winter, both Long-eared Owls and Saw-whet Owls may be found in the cedar groves.

To reach Geode, travel west on Highway 79 from Middletown. The park has many trails, and you can walk around the entire lake if you are so inclined. Follow the main road to the little stone bridge that crosses a creek, which enters the north end of the lake. In spring, you should find Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher here. This area is especially good for migrant thrushes and warblers. An added benefit in the spring is the spectacular wildflower show along the stream. Near the ranger's residence at the north edge of the park is Shelter No. 1, where Summer Tanagers are yearly nesters. Even if there are no birds in Geode, the scenery is spectacular.

## SOUTHERN LOUISA COUNTY

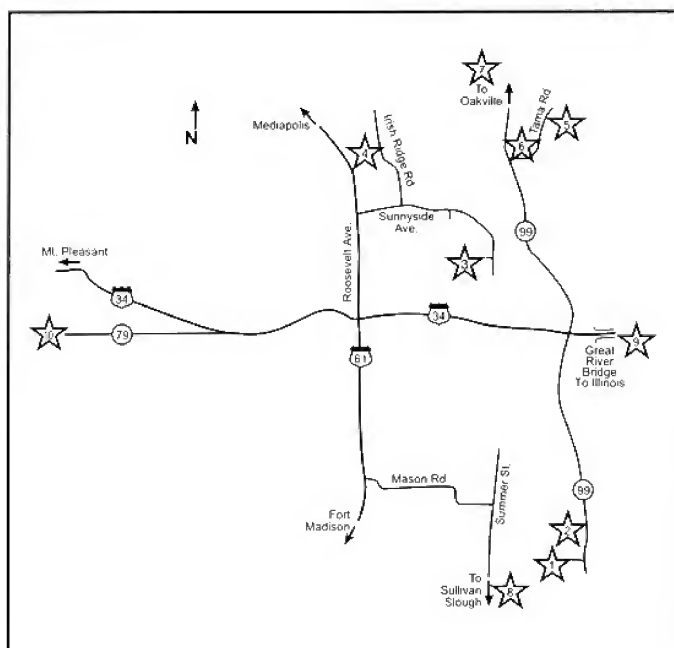
**Horseshoe Bend** (Figure 2, 11), in southern Louisa County is part of the **Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge**. I first discovered it after a Black-necked Stilt was reported there. To find this area, from Highway 99 between mileposts 27 and 28, take F Avenue south. At the T, turn west, and shortly thereafter south again. Along the first wooded section in the summer, Prothonotary Warblers are easy to find, and you should see Black-billed Cuckoo and Great-crested Flycatcher. Cross the levee and continue to a parking lot on the east. Along the road, look for Willow Flycatcher and Sedge Wren. From the parking lot, locate the maintenance shed and walk toward it on the refuge road (only when the refuge is open). Past the shed (watch for the Great-horned Owl that roosts there), there is a shallow lake. You can walk around to the middle of the lake on a mowed trail. Depending on the season, many things are possible. Ducks are plentiful in the spring and fall. If the lake is receding, particularly in August and September, numerous shorebirds can be found. There are also herons galore in late summer with a good chance of Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. In May 2001, four Glossy Ibis stayed for several days, and a Red Knot showed up on Labor Day, 2000.

## NORTHERN LEE COUNTY

Head south on Summer Street Road to Highway 61, and continue on 61 across the Skunk River and into Lee County. At the convenience store, go east on X-50, which, after about six miles, reaches the **Colusa Elevator on the Mississippi River** (Figure 3, 12). In the winter, watch for Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in the fields. Some winters, Short-eared Owls have found this heavily farmed area to their liking. A Prairie Falcon was present in late 2001. If the river is frozen elsewhere, there should still be some open water along the bank past the elevator. Bald Eagles and diving ducks are found here, and most years Long-tailed Duck has been present. In the summer, watch for White Pelicans, gulls, terns, and shorebirds by scoping the sandbars in the river.

## SUMMARY

This southeastern corner of Iowa has a lot to offer in diverse birding habitat. Both Mt. Pleasant and Burlington have ample motel accommodations, and Geode State Park has many camping sites, both



*Figure 1. Des Moines and Eastern Henry Counties. (1) Crapo Park, (2) Dankwardt Memorial Park, (3) Aspen Grove Cemetery, (4) Starr's Cave Preserve, (5) Tama Road, (6) Waterworks Plant, (7) Casey-Barrow Access, (8) Mississippi River bottom lands, (9) Illinois Lock and Dam No. 18, (10) Geode State Park.*

modern and primitive. In addition, Des Moines County offers several camping areas.

420 S. Garfield Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601-4145 (CFuller989@aol.com)

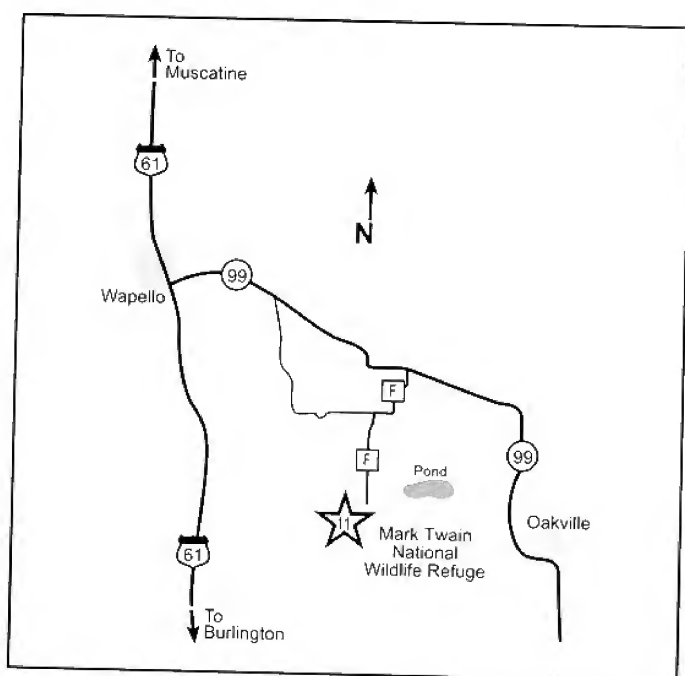


Figure 2. Southern Louisa County. (11) Horseshoe Bend in Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

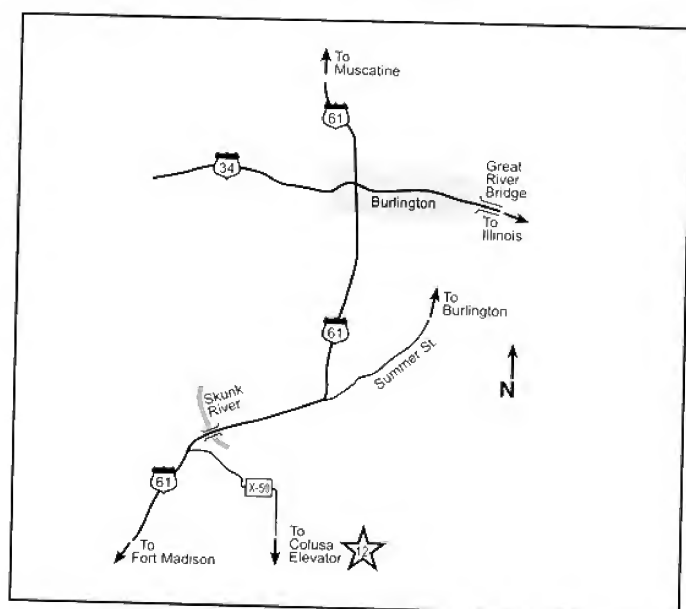


Figure 3. Northern Lee County. (12) Colusa Elevator on Mississippi River.

# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Board Meeting

10 March 2002

*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Board of Directors met at McFarland Park, Story County Conservation Board near Ames, Iowa. Board members present included President Tom Johnson, Secretary Jane Clark, Judy Garton, Treasurer Rita Goranson, Jim Scheib, and Linda Zaletel. Others attending the meeting were Dave Edwards, Paul Hertz, Ann Johnson, Mary Montgomery, Hank Zaletel, and Ric Zarwell. Tom Johnson called the meeting to order.*

**Important Bird Area Program.** Ric Zarwell presented information on the science-based Important Bird Area (IBA) program of National Audubon Society (NAS). He discussed the 16-member scientific committee and explained their development of criteria. There are currently 40 states involved in the IBA program. Ann Johnson is developing a web site that will be ready soon. It will be possible to nominate IBA sites online. The deadline for nominations will be 31 October 2002. It will be important to monitor these sites — we will need people on the local level to be stewards, monitoring birds and vegetative changes and environmental threats. We also should strive to focus education programs at these sites and Ric will be working with the entities that own the IBA land. He has invited leaders and the media to a meeting to be held March 27 in Des Moines. Dan Niven of NAS will be attending the meeting.

Ric would like IOU's endorsement of the IBA program and he discussed Birdathons and bird counts as a way to raise funds for the Iowa program and raise awareness. He thinks the first Iowa IBAs would be identified near Waterloo and Cedar Rapids because the foundations that have contributed to the project are located in those cities.

Tom Johnson stated he thinks the IOU is a good fit with the IBA program and thinks it is an appropriate project in which IOU can be

involved. Jim Scheib asked if there would be signage because he thinks that is important.

**Approval of Minutes.** Jim Scheib moved and Rita Goranson seconded to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report.** Rita Goranson distributed copies of the report and financial statement. There were questions about how the fund balance was described in the bylaws. Tom Johnson will review the bylaws by the next board meeting. Rita reported that the IOU is behind \$3,439.61 in expenses over revenue. Judy Garton moved and Linda Zaletel seconded approving the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

We have 385 members and 55 life members. Several ideas were discussed for raising extra funds. Hank Zaletel suggested promotion of memorials. Jim Scheib suggested offering two levels of membership — a full-service or partial membership. Linda Zaletel suggested other levels of support, and she also suggested increasing dues \$5.00. Tom Johnson stated, yes we have CDs, but there are projects we want to be involved in and cannot with limited funds. Ann Johnson explained ways to look at new revenue from the web site.

Linda Zaletel moved and Jim Scheib seconded that the "Birdline" option on the brochure be changed to "communications" instead. The motion passed.

**Registrar's Report.** Dave Edwards gave the Registrar's report. He said he is at a loss on how to get people to renew their memberships. He reported that only 140 members renewed with the tear-off in the newsletter and 240 did not reply. Jane Clark asked about additional updating of the brochure. Dave Edwards will update it.

**Iowa Bird Life.** If members received improperly bound copies of the last issue, they should contact Dave Edwards who will send them another copy. Jim Scheib suggested that Ann Johnson should be listed in *Iowa Bird Life* as the IOU webmaster. He also recommended that a backup for Ann be identified. Tom Johnson will make a request at the IOU Spring Meeting.

**Donation Requested.** Linda Zaletel presented a proposal from Buchanan County for donations to a migratory bird display. Hank

Zaletel noted that it is not a statewide project. Linda suggested we develop criteria for future requests. Jim Scheib moved and Judy Garton seconded that the IOU not donate to this project. The motion passed. Paul Hertzell suggested a letter be drafted to respond to the request from Buchanan County.

**Nominating Committee Report.** Ann Johnson reported that Sue Spieker is nominated for secretary, Rita Goranson for treasurer, and Judy Garton and John Rutenbeck are nominated to the board. The Nominating Committee would not fill the vice president's position — it would be appointed by the board. Tom Johnson suggested it should be someone from central Iowa to provide ideas on programs. Judy Garton moved and Rita Goranson seconded appointing Hank Zaletel to the unexpired term of vice president. The motion passed.

Ann Johnson also reported that Jim Dinsmore has been nominated for the Records Committee. Jim Scheib so moved and Linda Zaletel seconded and the motion passed. Ann also reported that the Records Committee wants to change the bylaws dealing with records (see page 1 from Ann Johnson). Judy Garton moved and Linda Zaletel seconded changing the bylaws. The motion passed.

**Web Site.** Ann Johnson gave a report on the opportunity to add a nature store to the IOU web site. Revenue from this site would be placed in the IOU general fund. Linda Zaletel moved and Judy Garton seconded setting up the store. The motion passed.

**Spring Count.** Tom Johnson suggested that local groups and/or individuals could provide fund-raising as a part of the spring count, with half of the proceeds to benefit the IOU and half, the IBA program. Jane Clark so moved and Jim Scheib seconded and the motion passed.

**Outreach and Membership.** Linda Zaletel shared a sample survey to be distributed to the membership. Linda and Hank Zaletel will serve on the committee to develop the final survey. Linda also presented sample press releases, which will be sent to newspapers for the upcoming meeting and for additional public relations.

**IOU Booklets/Activity Books.** The books that were previously published by IOU have been paid for. Linda would like to hand out the remaining books free at various meeting. Acorn Naturalists has

asked Linda to redo and upgrade this book, making it relevant to the United States, rather than Iowa. Jim Scheib so moved and Judy Garton seconded and the motion passed.

**Budget Discussion.** The board reviewed Editor Kay Niyo's report on the IOU journal, *Iowa Bird Life*. Linda Zaletel moved and Hank Zaletel seconded that Rita Goranson should cash CDs for bills, if necessary. The motion passed. Rita Goranson suggested we look for other fund-raising ideas. There were several suggestions about other ways to promote the IOU and to further distribute brochures. Raising the membership dues and offering choices of membership levels were discussed at length. Jane Clark moved and Linda Zaletel seconded placing \$1,500 into the budget for special projects. The motion passed. Rita will prepare a budget, based on this discussion and based on last year's revenues and expenses.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jane R. Clark, Secretary

#### TREASURER'S REPORT — RITA GORANSON, TREASURER

#### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2001

##### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

##### SUPPORT (Contributions and Gifts)

Iowa Bird Line	105.00	
Unspecified Contributions	202.00	
Memorial	350.00	
Total Contributions and Gifts		657.00

##### REVENUE

##### Memberships

Regular Member	2,755.00	
First Family Member	150.00	
Second Family Member	—	
Student Member	24.00	
Life Member	1,895.00	
Institutional Subscribers	720.00	
Total Membership Revenue		5,544.00



Sales		
IOU Materials	426.20	
Education Books	66.00	
IBL back issues sales	971.32	
Total Sales Revenue		1,463.52
Interest Income		
Checking Account	13.54	
Cert. Deposit #1	21.29	
Cert. Deposit #2	97.68	
Cert. Deposit #3	206.39	
Changing CD's Interest	1,056.50	
Total Interest Income		1,395.40
Refunds		
Refund on Qwest	19.37	
Total Refund on Membership	19.37	
Savings Acct. from PayPal	1,221.74	
Interest earned	9.49	
Total Savings		1,231.23
 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES		 \$10,310.52
 EXPENSES		
Publication Committee		
<i>Iowa Bird Life</i>	9,200.00	
IOU Newsletter	2,460.85	
Total Publications		11,660.85
Officer Expenses		
President	—	
Registrar	166.51	
Total Officer Expense		166.51
Iowa Bird Line	461.00	
IOU Materials expense	611.69	
IOU Internet Site	628.40	
Records Committee	48.18	
Fall Meeting Expense	173.50	
Outside Project	—	
Total		1,922.77
 TOTAL EXPENSES		 \$13,750.13
 EXCESS EXPENSES OVER SUPP./REV.		 \$3,439.61

# Book Review

*James J. Dinsmore*

*The Guide to Iowa's State Preserves* by Ruth Herzberg and John Pearson, University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 2001, 196 pp., softbound, \$14.95

This is a third and expanded guide to the state preserve system, the two earlier versions having been published by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The state preserves system consists of 90 sites that have been selected for their special biological, geological, historical, archaeological, and/or scenic values and have been given special protection by the state. These preserves are owned and managed by a variety of agencies and groups including the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, county conservation boards, and The Nature Conservancy. They are scattered throughout Iowa but about two thirds of them are located east of Interstate 35 with 18 in the four northeastern most counties. Sites range from 1 to 845 acres with the whole system covering about 9,300 acres.

The guide begins with a short introduction to the preserves system, a map showing the location of all sites, and lists of the 90 preserves. Detailed accounts of each preserve comprise much of the book. Most of the preserves warrant two pages, one of maps and a second of text describing the site. A few preserves that have special significance (especially historical) have more than two pages, and eight that are on private land or inaccessible to the public have no maps provided.

The text generally includes a brief description of the site and its history as a state preserve. A second paragraph describes the geological history and gives an overview of the general features of the site. For most, a paragraph describes the vegetation including some of the typical or unusual species found there. For many sites, another paragraph lists some of the animals found there including birds, mammals, herptiles, and butterflies. Easy-to-find sidebars give detailed written directions on how to reach the site and list the address, phone number, website, etc. of the organization responsible for managing each site.

The maps are wonderful! For most preserves, four maps are provided starting with a statewide, county-outline map to show where in Iowa the site is located. A small county map shows where in the county the site is located and a larger map shows how to reach the preserve. Finally, a half-page topographic-relief map shows the boundaries of the area and other details. Most of these areas do not have established trails, restrooms, picnic areas, etc., so once you get to them, you are on your own. My perusal of the maps for several sites that I am familiar with suggests that the maps and accompanying directions are accurate and that they will be very useful in finding these areas.

An appendix includes a list of the preserves and a list of published articles about the various sites, from which a reader can learn more about any special features. Most of those articles are botanically or geologically oriented, and few bird articles are listed.

So, what is in this book that will be useful to birders? A few of the preserves are already well known to some birders (e.g., Cayler Prairie, Cheever Lake, Hayden Prairie, White Pine Hollow), but many are small and unknown to most of us. I found some mention of birds in the accounts for 35 of the sites, but usually only a few species were listed and most of those were relatively common species. I intend to add this book to the stack of materials (field guides, sportsmans' atlas, etc.) that I regularly carry in my car when I go birding. I suspect that there are a number of sites around the state, some of which I have never visited, that would merit at least a few hours of birding, and now I have good information on how to find them. One such gem is Bixby State Preserve in Clayton County. I visited it a few years ago and plan to return.

Finally, I suspect that this book might eventually have a fourth edition. In that event, it would be great to have more bird information available on many of these preserves. Some might also merit a birding area article for *Iowa Bird Life*.

The authors have done a wonderful job of compiling a great deal of information into a user-friendly volume that should appeal to birders, plant enthusiasts, and others who just enjoy wandering around the back roads of Iowa. In particular, the maps are great and could serve as a benchmark for other such guides to try and match.

4024 Arkansas Avenue, Ames, IA 50014-3907 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

# Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

*James J. Dinsmore*

*An article on Wood Duck production in the Lake Odessa region was the lead article in the June 1952 issue of Iowa Bird Life. At the time, Wood Duck nest boxes were a fairly new item so the two authors, Robert Dreis and George Hendrickson, were basically documenting their use at Lake Odessa. They found that both Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers used the boxes but an extremely high flood in 1951 flooded out all of the nests; only Wood Ducks renested and had modest success from their second nests.*

The spring 1952 IOU meeting at Coe College in Cedar Rapids must have been a gala event. Frederic Leopold of Burlington and Paul Errington of Iowa State were on the program along with Tom Kent of Iowa City who spoke about equipment he used to photograph birds. The Saturday evening program featured two films on wildlife that were narrated by the photographer, Cleveland Grant. The attendance was reported to be about 1,000, which must rank as the greatest attendance ever at an IOU event. A total of 121 people registered for the meeting, and the Sunday field trip participants found 137 species, a total comparable to field trips in recent years.

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## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds*, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



#### OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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#### UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Fall 2002, 13–15 September, Saylorville Lake

#### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com).

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

**Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March** (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

**Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June** (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, mkenne@netamumail.com)

**Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August** (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

**Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December** (Paul Hertzel, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzel@rconnect.com)



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## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 509 S. West Street, Corydon, IA 50060 (abrees@hotmail.com)

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 (pkernzen@pionet.net)

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU WEB SITE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

Ann Johnson, Webmaster (iowabirds@iowabirds.org)

On-line resource for RBAs, checklists, site guides, IOU information, and much more. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

## *IOU NEWS*

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertz, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzel@rconnect.com)

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



